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- 6:30 a.m. Brad Jacobs' rink faces Great Britain in the finals in men's curling.
- 10 a.m. Canada and the U.S. square off in the men's hockey semi-finals in a rematch of the 2010 gold-medal game.
- 6:30 a.m. On the long track, Canada's men and women race for the podium in the team pursuit.

GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO

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PAGES 16 & 17

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Team Canada players celebrate after their nail-biting 3-2 overtime win against rivals U.S. in the Olympic women's hockey final

MORE OLYMPIC COVERAGE, PAGES 38-40

DAVID GOLDMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


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'Huge victory'

ALERT team closes drug house near Alberta Avenue

A home just off Alberta Avenue that police have been called to more than 100 times, including a 2012 drive-by shooting, has been closed by officers with the Alberta Law Enforcement Review Team.

A community safety order was used to close the home at 12033-90 Street for the next 90 days. Chip Sawchuk, the team's manager, said they had a lengthy investigation into the property and determined it was a problem.

He said they're relieved to be able to stop the drug activity, because it was causing problems and is just steps away from a school.

"This is a huge, huge victory for this community, because they have been suffering with living around the drugs and the drug trafficking for an extended period of time," he said.

Margaret Larsen, who lives nearby, said the community is slowly improving and she's glad police are intervening before something serious happens.

"In the past we have had problem houses and they're disappearing and so that's good," she said. "You don't ever want anything really serious to happen, because you never know who might get hurt."

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



Chip Sawchuk
RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Charges laid after cat mutilated, burned

A beloved family pet of 15-years is dead after two adults and one teen from the Mill Woods area allegedly stabbed and mutilated the animal, before setting it on fire.

A resident walking through Mill Creek Ravine notified Edmonton firefighters and police on Feb. 13 after they witnessed a small fire burning in the bush.

When firefighters arrived they discovered the remains of a mutilated cat, bloody scissors and an animal crate nearby.

Three males — Zachary Allen McKinnon, 18, Wendell Mack Mah, 18, and a 14-year-old — were all located nearby, with the help of the Air-1 helicopter, and arrested.

According to police, the trio is alleged to have stolen

a family pet from the home of someone they knew before stabbing the cat to death in the ravine.

"From what officers have told me (the teens) appear to be very remorseful," said EPS spokesperson Scott Pattison, adding the family of the cat is traumatized by the experience.

"This is a 15-year family pet, older animal, very docile animal," Pattison said

Thursday.

He added that it's extremely upsetting that anyone would inflict so much pain on a vulnerable animal, but it's being considered a random act.

"Certainly the age of the perpetrators is extremely troublesome," he added.

All of the accused have been charged with animal cruelty.

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

City turns to social media to get funding for LRT

Tweet away. Marketing specialists think some citizens getting left out



STEPHANIE DUBOIS
stephanie.dubois@metronews.ca

City officials are hoping tweets and Facebook posts will push the province and federal government to secure funding for Edmonton's Valley Line LRT.

The new social media campaign encourages Edmontonians to show their support in 140 characters or less using the #yeg4LRT hashtag.

"We hope it's going to be noted by decision-makers and the province," said Mayor Don Iveson.

A video with the mayor chatting up transit users about why they'd like to see the LRT expanded was released Thursday as part of the campaign.

There are expected to be further updates to the campaign, according to the mayor, who said the campaign is ongoing.



Mayor Don Iveson is seen in this screenshot of the city's new social media campaign in search of funding for the LRT project. SCREENSHOT

Budget date

- The province's budget will be released on March 6.

cial media.

The LRT project is the city's top priority for new infrastructure and it has committed \$800 million. The city is asking for \$365 million in new funding from the province on top of \$235 million in Green-TRIP funding. The proposed 13.1-kilometre section would link Valley Line in Mill Woods to downtown.

baric, a marketing strategist. He added there's a "huge silent majority of the audience" that isn't being engaged through so-

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NEWS

Better planning co-operation needed to address school growth

Unprecedented growth. School board searches for space as city neighbourhoods continue to expand

LEAH GERMAIN
leah.germain@metronews.ca

An Edmonton public-school executive said the city, province and local school boards need to come up with a better plan to provide services to the city's growing neighbourhoods.

After EPSB released new boundary restrictions to 11 of its most packed schools, EPSB's managing director Lorne Parker noted there's a disconnect between the city's rate of development and the development of services, including schools, into those new neighbourhoods.

"Looking forward, my observation would be we need to design a process whereby the provision of services is considered and committed to during the development phase," said Parker.

Each year EPSB puts together its capital plan naming the schools and modernizations it needs to

serve students.

With 17 projects listed on the most recent capital plan, Parker said the province agreed to build three schools.

"There's an opportunity for all parties to look at how we provide services in new neighbourhoods going forward. It does require us to think differently," he added.

At a Wednesday press conference in Calgary, Education Minister Jeff Johnson noted EPSB has 47 schools under 50 per cent capacity and said it was the school board's responsibility to make decisions on how it deals with capacity concerns.

"When (we) have limit(ed) resources, we've got to put them to where the high growth is, where we don't have the capacity," Johnson said.

A spokesperson for the Education Department added the government has to look at each school board's capital plan through a provincial perspective.

"We provide funding for the school board but they are responsible for really determining the needs in their own jurisdiction and their top priorities," said communications director Leanne Niblock.



A file photo shows Education Minister Jeff Johnson, right. METRO FILE

Overcrowding

Continued growth in southwest

Crowded schools in the city's southwest will have more and more homes around them in the years ahead, according to the City of Edmonton.

The public school board changed boundaries and took other steps to ease overcrowding this week in several southwest Edmonton schools.

Scott Mackie, the city's manager of current planning, said new development will continue to expand in the area in the years ahead.

"The southwest part of the city is one of the fastest growing parts of the city and certainly we are seeing growth right down to the south city limits," he said.

Mackie said until recently, the southwest was one of the last areas in the city with land for major housing developments, but it's now all planned and construction is underway.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Police uncover 30 litres of GHB after routine traffic stop

One swipe of an iPod landed an Edmonton man in jail facing drug trafficking charges after Edmonton Police discovered three 10-litre jerry cans of GHB in his car.

The bust was made after EPS members identified a 31-year-old man using an iPod while driving Tuesday night.

As part of a February initiative, EPS's Specialized Traffic Apprehension Team has been working to crack down on distracted driving.

Along with the GHB, police officers found more than \$11,000 worth of marijuana — 756 grams — and \$1,000 in cash on Feb. 18, just after 8:30 p.m.

Police estimate the GHB was worth more than \$43,000.

Commonly referred to as the date-rape drug, gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) has become a popular rave drug and is usually sold by the bottle cap.

EPS STAT member Sgt. Bill Krull said the recent bust was a significant amount of GHB taken off the streets.

"Any time you have any type of illegal substance out there where you see an increase of it, absolutely it's concerning," he said.



Edmonton police displayed 10 litres of GHB and 756 grams of marijuana they seized in a traffic stop related to distracted driving. LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

Along with two counts of possession for the purposes of trafficking, Ryan David Getschel has been charged with possession of proceeds

of crime, use of handheld electronic device while driving and three counts of breach of recognizance.

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

Rundle Park. Run from the undead comes to life

Winter has come and a group of Edmontonians are planning on running from white walkers this weekend — all for a good cause.

The first annual Dead Cold Run will hit Rundle Park, where participants will run while the undead white walkers pursue them, in a nod to the Game of Thrones series.

"We have participants who are signed up to do the event that are either alive and running along the route ... and then as well there are the white walkers that are chasing them," said Trevor Soll, who's organizing the event.

He said participants will have health flags that the walkers will try and pull and to successfully cross the finish line people need to still have flags.

The event is a fundraiser for the North Saskatchewan



Organizer Trevor Soll stands in Rundle Park where the event will take place on Saturday. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Riverkeepers and Stoll said it's an opportunity to have fun and do good.

"It's a great way to do some charity work and try to get people off their butts and onto the trails."

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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The amount of GHB seized in Edmonton's largest bust for the drug last year in July.



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Candies laced with tetrahydrocannabinol can be extremely potent and potentially contain other, more harmful chemicals, warn Alberta RCMP. CONTRIBUTED

THC candies may contain hidden hazards: RCMP

Buyer beware. It's all too easy to mix other chemicals into the batch, say authorities



LEAH GERMAIN
leah.germain@metronews.ca

After local RCMP confiscated 574 grams of candies laced with tetrahydrocannabinol — commonly known as THC — last month, RCMP Sgt. Lorne Adamitz is calling the bust troubling.

"This is a significant size of seizure," said Adamitz, who expects to see more THC products on city streets.

"We have seen THC candies in the past, but very, very

sporadic," he added.

According to Adamitz, the problem with the rebranding of marijuana into candies is that it's unclear what else has been included in the batch.

"Once you're able to introduce chemicals, you can basically introduce anything into these candies and pass them off as THC candies," Adamitz said, noting the potency of THC candies can often be very strong.

Jean-Marc Chamberland, an employee at the Healing Tree dispensary in Vancouver where the THC candies are legally sold to approved users, enjoys chewing on the sweet treats while he's at work.

"It's all about finding what works for you," said Chamberland, who opts for the candies because he can't smoke

Candy land

THC extracted from marijuana can be used to create anything from butter to hard candies.

- Edmonton police have not had any busts involving THC candy but are considering it a dangerous drug.
- RCMP are concerned the drug might find its way into the hands of children because of its candy-like consistency.

at work. However, he said, "If I was buying it off the street, I might question it."

WITH FILES FROM JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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FOOTNOTES
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Tom McGeachy, Tim Pedrick and Kevin Barabash are competitors in the signage business but Wednesday afternoon were chumming it up over wings and beer inside the Mercer Tavern on 104th Street.

What's brought them together is just outside.

Clipped to a Telus utility building, eight neon signs will — for the first time in decades — glow in pink, blue, crimson and violet at 7 p.m. today.

The Neon Sign Museum was thought up by Edmonton heritage planner David Holdsworth, who in 2002 saved a vintage Canadian Furniture sign on 97th Street from the scrap yard. He stored it in the city's artifacts centre without a plan. Word got out to other business owners, and the collection grew until archivists pressured him to clear his trove.

Still, it would take six more years from the museum's inception in 2008 to Friday's

opening. Holdsworth didn't just need buy-in from a building owner, he also needed experts who could repair neon signs — which have been in decline since the advent of LED — for free.

Then VP of the Alberta Sign Association, McGeachy of New Look Signs was immediately sold on the idea. "I said, 'Sure. How long could it take?'"

As it turned out, the Mike's New Stand sign alone required 1,000 hours. Even a relatively simple one that reads "Drugs" was a 100-hour job.

Through the association, McGeachy and current president Pedrick put a call out to businesses. Currently members are working on repairing four pieces, including one from the Georgia Baths, a gay bathhouse that managed to avoid the 1980s police raids.

The \$180,000 museum frame (the city's only expense) can hold up to 30 signs, and the city is seeking donations. From the sounds of it, the frame could fill up.

"Just about everybody who walks by knows where there's a sign," said Pedrick of Hi Signs the Fath Group. "We've

had dozens of inquiries."

Despite being competitors and the massive effort required, the association members love the project. Early this month, two dozen sign professionals spent the weekend installing the signs in -20 C weather.

It's great publicity, but it's also an opportunity to work with neon again.

Up until 15 years ago, neon was an industry standard. Now, making and fuelling neon is prohibitively expensive — designing the Mike's New Stand's sign would cost \$45,000 today, they estimated. The expertise, the glass blowers and sheet-metal designers are increasingly rare.

Sitting in the Mercer Tavern, the men begin to lament the creativity lost to this dying art.

Says Pedrick: "LED will never touch neon in its pure form."

But rumour has it the Mercer Tavern's owner wants to honour the museum with a new neon sign, which immediately turns the chums back to competitors jokingly scowling at each other over the sweet gig.

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Report raises questions. Government defends P3 school construction

The Alberta government insists recently announced schools will open on time and on budget, despite an internal report that raised questions about the P3 process for building them.

Last year the government received just one bid for a proposed public private partnership (P3) last year to build 19 schools and for a review to determine why there was so little interest.

The Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) released that review this week after obtaining it through the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIP). The report identifies the low margins and high costs as

some of the reasons construction companies passed on bidding.

Parker Hogan, a spokesperson for the Minister of Infrastructure, said the low margins are a sign taxpayers are getting good value.

"That says the Alberta government has gotten so good at pricing these things that the contractors can't make a big enough profit," he said.

He said the government still believes P3s make sense, but it doesn't mean they will be used in every case.

"We will continue to look at it where it makes sense, both from a building perspective and a taxpayer expense," he said.

Metro contacted both local school board chairs who said they're still confident the schools the government has promised will open on time.

AFL president Gil McGowan said instead of seeing the problem with P3s the government will add to them.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

School Build

The province has announced plans to construct 50 new schools and complete eight modernizations.

Look up, people! Good things come in trees

The Threshold Collective. New University of Alberta student art project to explore urban form in treetops



RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Churchill Square will be getting some rooms with a view this summer. In fact, the square will be getting three whole houses.

As part of the Edmonton Arts Council's transitory public art program, a group of University of Alberta students will be installing three treehouses in Churchill Square this summer.

Danielle Soneff, one of

the students working on the project, said people will look at the treehouses in a lot of different ways, but they just want to start a conversation.

"I don't want to say what it is or isn't about, because the overall goal is to create that dialogue between people," she said.

Jesse Sherburne, a professor in the faculty of art and design, is helping to oversee the project and said he sees the chance to talk about sprawl and urban design in the art.

"It's really looking at issues around urban sprawl

and some of our interaction with the urban downtown," he said.

The houses won't be accessible and they won't have rope ladders or secret entrances, but will be replicas of some of the commonly used home designs in Edmonton.

Soneff said they wanted to do the installation in Churchill Square because it's such a central gathering spot for the city.

"Our collective is called Threshold, so we were really exploring this idea about people's relationship with their public spaces," she said.

Sherburne had five other student groups working on projects and he said he wants to show them there are prospects here in Edmonton.

"We have a steady stream of airplane flights and bus trips taking our creatives to other cities and I want to introduce them to opportunities (here)," he said.

Treehouses

The treehouses will be about 12 feet tall and eight feet by eight feet and will be placed in a variety of spaces in the square starting in May.

- The group is working with the city's arborists to make sure the trees selected for the project can handle the weight.

Quoted

"It's really looking at issues around urban sprawl and some of our interaction with the urban downtown."

Jesse Sherburne, a professor in the faculty of art and design

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Photos of what the three treehouses could look like when they are installed in Churchill Square this summer. CONTRIBUTED

Rumours dispelled

Redford says Young OK to stay

It appears government backbencher Steve Young won't be kicked out of caucus by Alberta Premier Alison Redford for criticizing her \$45,000 taxpayer-funded trip to Nelson Mandela's funeral. Redford is dismissing rumours of Young being turfed from caucus, saying she agrees with his comments and encourages open debate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sherwood Park

Woman killed in car crash

The passenger of a Volkswagen Jetta was killed early Thursday morning after the car's driver allegedly made an illegal U-turn across two lanes in Sherwood Park. Emergency services responded to the crash around 6:50 a.m. Thursday on 17th Street south of Petroleum Way in Sherwood Park. METRO

Police standoff

Witness of atrocities sent for assessment

A man believed to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after witnessing atrocities in Africa has been taken for a mental-health assessment following a five-hour standoff with Edmonton police.

Investigators say officers were called to a home Wednesday evening after a woman said her husband was suicidal and had access to guns.

He had worked as a civilian employee of the United Nations.

The man had fallen asleep and emerged overnight to surrender after police blocked off the area and brought an armoured vehicle onto the driveway to get his attention with lights and sirens.

Charges aren't expected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Trudeau tells convention he's not interested in 'politics of division'

'We are here to hope.' Liberal leader decries partisanship of other parties, says they want 'to see who can make Canadians angrier'

Justin Trudeau cast himself Thursday as a purveyor of hope and economic growth as he opened his first national Liberal convention since being crowned leader last April.

He positioned himself in contrast to what he termed "the politics of division," which he maintained is practised by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair and Parti Québécois Premier Pauline Marois.

"My friends, I have no interest in joining Mr. Harper and Mr. Mulcair in a competition to see who can make

Canadians angrier," he told some 3,000 delegates.

"We are here to hope. We are here to work hard. We are here to build. We are here to put together the team and the plan to make this country better."

That said, Trudeau was not above taking shots at his rivals, particularly Harper, whom he accused of creating the environment in which intolerance thrives, as demonstrated by the popularity of the PQ's controversial charter of Quebec values, which bans public servants from wearing prominent religious symbols.

Under Harper, Trudeau said incomes of middle class Canadians have stagnated, household debt has skyrocketed and the gap between rich and poor has widened. And that, he said, has created an environment in which intolerance thrives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau addresses his party's policy convention Thursday in Montreal. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Notice of the Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch Program Society 2014 Annual General Meeting

The Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch Board of Directors hereby gives notice of the 2014 Annual General Meeting. This meeting is open to the public and will be held on Sunday, March 16th, 2014 at the Art Gallery of Alberta. The meeting will take place from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. in Manning Hall. Light refreshments will be provided. A Special Resolution Meeting, to discuss and vote on amendments to the Society's by-laws, will take place before the Annual General Meeting is called to order. The Art Gallery of Alberta is located at 2 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton.

For more information, visit
www.ENWatch.ca
or telephone **(780)-433-7458**.



Austerity. Tight budgets making military sharing 'a model for the future'

Britain's top military commander says leaner defence budgets are here to stay and allied nations will likely find themselves sharing resources in ways they may not have done in the past.

Much like his Canadian counterpart, Gen. Sir Nick Houghton has been grappling with drastic budget cuts that will see the size of the British regular force reduced by 20,000 over the next six years.

Most of the cuts will affect the army, but the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force will also feel the pain. At the same time, Britain will increase the size of its reserves.

The Harper government's most recent budget left the Canadian military's bottom line alone, but shifted \$3.1 billion of capital spending off to some time in the future. National Defence has already been through recent cuts that took upwards of \$2.1 billion out of an annual \$20-billion appropriation.

At the moment, Canada has not moved to cut the size of either its regular or reserve force.

The Pentagon, too, has faced cuts through sequestration

when U.S. lawmakers failed to agree on how to tackle Washington's tide of red ink.

"I sense that austerity will be an enduring factor, not just a passing one," Houghton said in an interview Thursday during the Conference of Defence Associations annual forum in Ottawa.

Defence analysts have echoed that thought, suggesting that in order to finance costly election promises as the 2015 campaign draws near, the Harper government will not be restoring earlier military funding levels any time soon.

The circumstances are different in London, where the Ministry of Defence oversees a larger force, one replete with expensive aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines.

The reality of smaller defence budgets means that instead of each nation having everything it needs for international missions, countries will be forced to share resources, such as drones, aircraft and transports.

"Our ability to genuinely get into partnerships that pool and share capability should be a model for the future," Houghton said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fatal confrontation

New indictments for Mounties in Taser perjury case

New indictments have been filed against two Mounties accused of perjury at a public inquiry into Robert Dziekanski's death, adding an allegation the officers lied when they testified that they hadn't talked about what happened after his death.

Dziekanski, who was immigrating to Canada from Poland, died on the floor of the Vancouver airport after he was repeatedly stunned with an RCMP Taser in October 2007.

All four RCMP officers involved in the fatal confrontation were charged with one count of perjury. One of them, Const. Bill Bentley, has already been tried and acquitted.

Const. Kwesi Millington, former corporal Benjamin (Monty) Robinson, and Const. Gerry Rundel have trials in front of judges scheduled later this year, with Millington's scheduled first in March.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former tab editor acquitted of one charge

Phone hacking trial. Former head hack at the defunct News of the World in the U.K. still faces four more charges

Former News of the World editor Rebekah Brooks was

acquitted Thursday of one charge at Britain's phone hacking trial as she began her defence against four more.

Her lawyer told jurors that Brooks was "not on trial for having worked for Rupert Murdoch's company."

Judge John Saunders ruled that there was "no case for Mrs. Brooks to answer" to a charge that she illegally paid an official for a

Then and now

"It all seems so silly now."

Former News of the World editor Rebekah Brooks. In pursuit of scoops, she recalled spending up to \$250,000 in 1995 to get an interview with the prostitute arrested with actor Hugh Grant.

picture of Prince William in a bikini. Saunders said "con-

siderable uncertainty" had arisen about the source of the photo.

Brooks and six others are on trial on charges stemming from the revelation that News of the World eavesdropped on voice mails of celebrities, politicians and crime victims.

All seven defendants deny the charges against them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Rebekah Brooks, former tabloid editor, arrives at court. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Embarrassed'

'Pizza Hut and nothing but?' Well, maybe not

A West Virginia pizza restaurant has been shut down after a district manager was caught on surveillance video urinating into a sink.

Pizza Hut Corp. spokesman Doug Terfehr said Wednesday the company was made aware of the video Tuesday and fired the employee shortly thereafter. The restaurant in Kermit, about 140 km

southwest of Charleston, was then closed indefinitely.

The video, dated Jan. 29, shows the manager urinating in a metal sink in a food preparation area. The incident occurred after business hours.

Terfehr issued a statement saying the company was "embarrassed by the actions of this individual."

The employee's name wasn't released.

"Pizza Hut has zero tolerance for violations of our operating standards," said the statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Drink up — water, that is

American first lady Michelle Obama is escorted by Rose Cameron, CEO and founder of a line of bottled water targeted to kids and teens, as they view the Taking Back the Streets art exhibit at the New Museum in New York, Thursday. Obama kicked off appearances to celebrate her anti-childhood-obesity and drink water initiatives. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Activists evacuate a wounded protester during clashes with police in Kyiv's Independence Square in Ukraine on Thursday. EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sochi

Skier drops out of race

A Ukrainian skier has withdrawn from the Olympics to protest the deaths of anti-government protesters in her country.

"I don't want to participate when in my country people die," said Bogdana Matsotska.

The 24-year-old skier is

refusing to ski in Friday's slalom, her third and best event at the Sochi Olympics.

Matsotska says Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich "has to be jailed, and for a long time ... for all the lives that he took."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Bogdana Matsotska



People pass through Independence Square, the epicentre of the country's current unrest, brief truce in Ukraine's besieged capital, killing numerous people. The deaths came in a opposition leaders called for a truce and negotiations to try to resolve Ukraine's political

Ukraine's

Fierce clashes. Medic says scores killed and hundreds wounded in Kyiv's deadliest day yet

Protesters were also seen leading policemen with their hands held high around the sprawling protest camp in central Kyiv. Ukraine's Interior Ministry says 67 police were captured in all.

Protesters tossed firebombs and advanced on police lines Thursday in Ukraine's embattled capital. Government snipers shot back, killing at least 70 people and wounding hundreds of others, according to medic Dr. Oleh Musiy.

Video footage on Ukrainian television showed shocking scenes Thursday of protesters being cut down by gunfire, lying on the pavement as comrades rushed to their aid. Trying to protect themselves with shields, teams of protesters carried bodies away on sheets of plastic or planks of wood.

"The price of freedom is too high but Ukrainians are paying it," said Viktor Danilyuk, a 30-year-old protester. "We have no choice, the government isn't hearing us."

President Viktor Yanukovich and the opposition protesters who are demanding his resignation are locked in an epic battle over the identity of Ukraine, a nation of 46 million that has divided loyalties between Russia and the West. Parts of the country — mostly in its western cities — are in open revolt against Yanukovich's central government, while many in eastern Ukraine back the president and favour strong ties with Russia, their former Soviet ruler.

Protesters across the country are also upset over corruption in Ukraine, the lack of democratic rights and the country's ailing economy, which just barely avoided bankruptcy with a \$15 billion loan from Russia.

At least 101 people have died this week in the clashes

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White House: No military action

The White House expressed renewed outrage over the continuing deadly violence in Ukraine, and Secretary of State John Kerry late Thursday said the U.S. has started "implementing sanctions through travel bans on Ukrainians responsible for the violence."

The White House said Vice President Joe Biden, the Obama administration's

prime contact with President Viktor Yanukovich in recent days, spoke to the Ukrainian leader by telephone Thursday afternoon and made clear that the U.S. is prepared to sanction officials responsible for the violence.

In Brussels, the 28-nation European Union decided Thursday in an emergency meeting to impose sanctions against those behind the vio-

lence, including a travel ban and an asset freeze against some Ukrainian officials.

The White House has urged Yanukovich to withdraw forces from downtown Kyiv immediately.

Military action by the U.S. is not among the options being considered, deputy spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. President Barack Obama
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



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Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

in Kyiv, according to protesters and Ukrainian authorities, a sharp reversal in three months of mostly peaceful protests. Now neither side appears willing to compromise or in control of the streets. The opposition is insisting on Yanukovich's resignation and an early election while the embattled president is apparently prepared to fight until the end.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's reaction

Feds extend travel ban

Canada is extending its travel ban to cover more senior officials of the Ukrainian government and is promising economic sanctions as well.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canadians are outraged by the violence in the Ukrainian capital.

Last month, the Canadian government imposed a travel ban on some officials and promised medical aid for protesters.

There were no immediate specifics of the wider travel ban, nor did Harper's statement provide details of the planned sanctions.

He does say, however, that even tougher measures are being considered.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Oilsands chemicals hit Athabasca River: Environment Canada study

Tailings ponds seepage. Research tracks toxic substances back to tarsands

New federal research strongly backs suspicions that toxic chemicals from Alberta's oilsands tailings ponds are leaching into groundwater and seeping into the Athabasca River.

Leakage from oilsands tailings ponds, which now cover 176 square kilometres, has long been an issue. Industry has acknowledged that seepage can occur and previous studies have estimated it at 6.5 million litres a day from a single pond.

The soil around the developments contains many chemicals from naturally occurring bitumen deposits and scientists have never been able to separate them from contaminants released by industry.



A tailings pond at the Syncrude oilsands facility near Fort McMurray, Alta., in July, 2012. New federal research has confirmed that water from vast oilsands tailings ponds is leaching into groundwater and seeping into the Athabasca River. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The current Environment Canada study, accepted for publication in the journal Environmental Science and

Technology, used new technology to discover that the mix of chemicals is slightly different between the two sources.

That discovery, made using a \$1.6-million piece of equipment purchased in 2010 to help answer such questions,

allows scientists to actually fingerprint chemicals and trace them back to where they came from. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tracing groundwater

Here's how Environment Canada did its study:

- Scientists took 20 groundwater samples at least one kilometre up- and downstream from development.
- They took seven samples from within 200 metres and directly from two tailings ponds.
- Their focus was on so-called acid-extractable organics, which include a family of chemicals called naphthenic acids.
- Those toxins were found in groundwater near and far from development. But their composition was different nearer the mines, closer to that found in the water from the ponds.

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U.S. drone strike may have killed at least 12 civilians, report says

Yemen. U.S. officials claim those killed were members of al-Qaida

A U.S. military drone strike in Yemen in December may have killed up to a dozen civilians on their way to a wedding and injured others, including the bride, a human rights group says. U.S. officials say only members of al-Qaida were killed, but they have refused to make public the details of two U.S. investigations into the incident.

Human Rights Watch released a report on the drone strike Thursday, citing interviews with eight witnesses and relatives of the dead as well as Yemeni officials. The report said four Hellfire missiles were fired at a wedding procession of 11 vehicles on Dec. 12, 2013, in Radda in



In this Nov. 8, 2011 photo, a Predator B unmanned aircraft taxis at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas. A U.S. drone strike in Yemen in December may have killed up to a dozen civilians, a human rights group says. ERIC GAV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

southern Yemen, killing at least 12 men and wounding at least 15 others, six of them seriously.

The report said the procession "may have included members" of Yemen's al-Qaida in the Arabian Penin-

sula, "although it is not clear who they were or what was their fate." Family members and survivors say all those

hit were civilians. Yemeni officials told Human Rights Watch that most were militants.

"We asked both the Yemeni and the U.S. authorities to tell us which of the dead and wounded were members of militant groups and which if any were civilians," said report author Letta Tayler, a senior terrorism and counterterrorism researcher at Human Rights Watch. "They did not reply to this question."

She added: "While we do not rule out the possibility that AQAP fighters were killed and wounded in this strike, we also do not rule out the possibility that all of those killed and wounded were civilians."

The New York-based group called on the U.S. government to investigate and make the findings public.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. officials' response

Three U.S. officials said the U.S. government did investigate the December strike — twice — and concluded that only members of al-Qaida were killed in the three vehicles that were hit.

- The officials say the Pentagon can't release details because both the U.S. military and the CIA fly drones over Yemen. By statute, the military strikes can be acknowledged, but the CIA operations cannot.
- The officials said if they explain one strike but not another, they are revealing by default which ones are being carried out by the CIA.

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The opossums that Metro reporter Rita Poliakov saw at a breeder's house were smaller than the wild opossum, which is pictured above. ISTOCK

So, you want to buy an opossum

'Other pets.' How one reporter's quest for the perfect marsupial led to an imperfect situation

RITA
POLIAKOV
Metro in Toronto

It didn't take long for the baby opossum to escape my grip.

About the size of my palm, it quickly made its way off my hand, around my shirt and onto the couch. After hours of researching the marsupial, I guess I never realized how quick they would be. Or how agile.

I didn't expect to find myself at an opossum breeder's house on a Sunday morning, chatting about cockroach lunches and ferret pellets. But there I was, watching a full-grown opossum cuddle with its owner. He looked downright adorable.

Scouring the web

My journey may have ended at a breeder's an hour away from Toronto, but it began on Kijiji. My goal was to go through the same steps a prospective exotic pet owner might before finding that perfect critter. And for me, that started online.

On Kijiji, lurking in the "other pets" section, I found

a wealth of exotic animals — hedgehogs, Bengal cats and pythons, all just a click away. After a bit of Googling, I settled on a Brazilian, short-tailed opossum. And then I looked up Toronto's animal bylaws.

Opossums, it turns out, are in the prohibited animals list, right in between kangaroos and wallabies.

"Part of the reason for the exotic animal bylaw is these animals need quite a lot of specialized care," said Mary Lou Leiher of Toronto Animal Services. "Opossums, they're still wild animals. They're just being socialized.... That doesn't make them domesticated. Wild animals have different brain chemistry and should be left in the wild."

If I'm caught with an opossum, animal services would

'They're actually illegal'

"Sure, he would treat my opossum in an emergency, but then he'd inform me of the Toronto bylaws and recommend I take the pet to an animal rehab."

try to get me to give up my pet voluntarily. Otherwise, I could get charged and saddled with a fine as high as \$5,000.

Providing the essentials

Trying to keep my opossum obsession on the down low, I started looking at care options. The breeder suggested using a plastic storage container with mesh on top where the lid would be instead of a cage. The opossum's diet would be a little bit more complicated. Opossums

need lots of variety, including ferret food, insects and baby food.

My next step was to talk to someone with experience. Richard Johnstone is an exotic animal science instructor at Sheridan College in Toronto. When living in Australia, Johnstone took in a baby possum (not to be confused with the North American opossum).

"It was delightful. I would bring home all kinds of eucalyptus. She'd sit on the back of the couch and chew them.

She was quite sweet," he said.

But when the possum got to adulthood, Johnstone released her. According to the instructor, mature possums can get aggressive when their hormones kick in.

Finding a vet

Armed with information, a hypothetical storage container and lots of cockroaches (also hypothetical), my last step was to find a vet.

Which proved to be my downfall.

The Links Road Animal Clinic in Toronto treats all kinds of exotic animals. But Dr. Evan Mavromatis hasn't seen many opossums.

"They're actually illegal," he was quick to tell me. Sure, he would treat my opossum in an emergency, but then he'd inform me of the Toronto bylaws and recommend I take the pet to an animal rehab.

Still, if not for animal bylaws, I think I'd enjoy owning a cuddly, agile marsupial. You know, hypothetically speaking.

Day 3: Exotic pets in Canada

After two New Brunswick boys were killed last year by an escaped African rock python, we wanted to understand why so many Canadians bring exotic — and sometimes lethal — animals into their homes and lives. What are the costs involved in caring for such critters? How many of these pets are illegal? And what happens when it all goes wrong?

- **Online.** Read about Jagger, a serval cat who lives in a Regina suburb; escape the clutch of a Burmese python; and hear what the Ikea monkey's mom has to say about having wild friends.

Metro reporter Rita Poliakov initially wanted to research buying a Fennec fox, shown here, but YouTube videos showcasing the animal's astonishingly high energy level convinced her to look for something else.



ISTOCK

That's not really a pet, is it?

Ranking No. 1 on Animal Planet's Top 10 Peculiar Pets list was none other than the Madagascar hissing cockroach (which produces a hissing sound when air travels through respiratory openings on the abdomen). These roaches could make ideal pets for those living in small dwellings, as the creatures only need a small enclosure with places to hide and sticks to climb. They're also suitable for exotic-animal owners who are on a budget. The insects eat fresh vegetables with dry pellet food that's high in protein. **METRO**



Jabba the Hut, or the face of cold-blooded danger? Read below to find out why this African bullfrog named Jeremiah can be a tricky pet. **CONTRIBUTED**

A soft spot for cold-blooded creatures *

From slithering serpents to creepy crawlies, Valerie Williams' vast array of cold-blooded pets would make even the bravest person cringe. But Williams wasn't nicknamed the Snake Lady for nothing.

Turning 80 this March, she has been all over Ontario educating adults and kids about reptiles, amphibians and insects since 1969. "A lot of people are scared of cold-blooded animals and often overlook how important they are," said Williams, who lives in London, Ont.

In every presentation, she likes reminding her audience about how useful these creatures are in the wild as they perform essential tasks like breaking down plant material to make new soil.

Williams' fascination for cold-blooded animals started when she was a young girl in her native England. At four years old, she was given her first pet snake. "My dad was an environmentalist and he'll just give me pets to take care of so I really appreciated them early on and was never really scared," she said.

Several decades after, Wil-

liams' interest has shown no signs of waning. She now keeps 20 rodent-eating snakes from ball pythons and king snakes to milk snakes and her favourite, corn snakes, which grow up to five feet and come in every colour except blue. "They're all extremely well-behaved," Williams said. "I will never do a show with an animal I don't personally know."

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO IN REGINA

* Surprisingly, snakes aren't the most dangerous cold-blooded pets Valerie Williams owns. That title goes to her African bullfrog, Jeremiah. "He bites just because he feels like it," Williams said. "His kind attacks snakes and will even latch onto lions when they come down to drink in the watering hole." To see how sharp an African bullfrog's teeth are, search for "African bullfrog Erindi Private Game Reserve" on YouTube.



Having trouble with your pet fox? Help's a click away

Online support. Exotic animal owners can turn to Internet forums when they're having problems

ANDREW FIFIELD
Metro in Toronto

You become responsible forever, for what you have tamed.

That quote from French writer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry has become a mantra for exotic pet owners, but a dedicated Internet community is happy to help newcomers shoulder that responsibility.

"Sadly, there are quite a few people who do not get the support they need," says Ash Whatcott, a forum moderator for Sybil's Den, a rich resource for new and prospective owners. "Rehoming an exotic animal is not easy and they can become very stressed."

A stressed animal makes for an unhappy pet, and an unhappy pet can be a destructive force, overwhelming new owners who worry they may have bitten off more than they



Fable's early days were trying for his owner, Ash Whatcott, but a little help from her online friends went a long way. **CONTRIBUTED**

can chew and marking a point where a helpful community becomes invaluable.

According to Whatcott, animals that spend their early days sharing a home are unlikely to find a happier habitat after proving too much for their owners. Many

end up in hands-off sanctuaries, which can be difficult for animals used to human contact. Others can end up being euthanized.

Whatcott herself was among the potentially overwhelmed owners after first adopting her red fox, Fable.

Quoted

"Rehoming an exotic animal is not easy and they can become very stressed."

Ash Whatcott, a forum moderator for Sybil's Den

Foxes are notoriously energetic and clever, traits that can get out of hand for an unprepared owner. Wrestling with red fox red tape such as securing the proper permits can also be daunting.

And though the help provided at Sybil's Den was a huge assist in the early days, the window for potential complications stays open.

"This past fall, I ran into difficulties when Fable's temperament unexpectedly changed," says Whatcott. "By speaking with other members I learned what to do to correct the situation and now Fable is back to his playful, loving self."

"If not for the community, I'm not sure I ever would have seen that cute little white-tipped tail wag again."

Which famous guy owned an anteater?

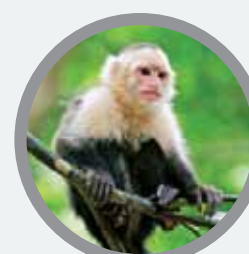
Mike Tyson, Vanilla Ice, Nicolas Cage, Justin Bieber, Salvador Dali and Michael Jackson are just some of the celebrities who've kept exotic pets. Guess which one owned which critter. (Answers below.)



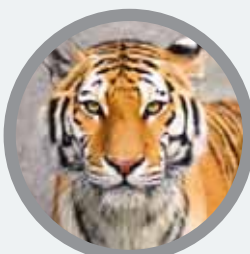
Anteater



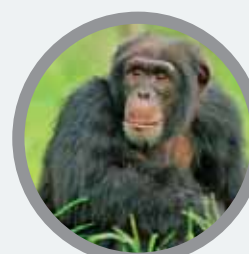
Octopus



Capuchin monkey



Tiger



Chimpanzee



Wallaroo

ISTOCK

Answers: Salvador Dali = anteater, Nicolas Cage = octopus, Vanilla Ice = wallaroo, Justin Bieber = capuchin monkey, Mike Tyson = tiger, Michael Jackson = chimpanzee

Report. Tories offer reindeer-grazing reserves for oil, gas exploration

Tracts of land that had been set aside for reindeer grazing in Canada's North have instead been offered up by the Conservative government for oil and gas exploration, newly released documents show.

Companies interested in obtaining petroleum exploration rights in the Mackenzie Delta and Beaufort Sea region of the Northwest Territories were asked last year to nominate blocks of land that they wanted to see included in a subsequent call for bids.

Reindeer-grazing reserves near the communities of Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk were among



PM Stephen Harper in Inuvik, N.W.T., earlier this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

the lands that were included in that call for nominations, pending a necessary amendment to an order-in-council imposed in 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
90.10¢ (-0.14¢)

TSX
14,210.37 (+90.64)

OIL
\$102.92 US (-\$0.39)

GOLD
\$1,316.90 US (-\$3.50)

Natural gas: \$6.04 US (-\$0.06)
Dow Jones: 16,133.23 (+92.67)

Fresh style abroad

Canada's Joe Fresh going global

Grocery giant Loblaw Companies Ltd. is bringing its Joe Fresh discount clothing line overseas in a major expansion that will target fashionistas in key growth markets like the Middle East and North Africa.

The Canadian company said Thursday that the roll-out includes the addition of up to 141 Joe Fresh stores in 23 countries over the next four years. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Cold stone failure: Timmies puts creamery out of misery

Pedestrians walk past a Tim Hortons location with a Cold Stone Creamery in Toronto on Thursday. Tim Hortons has announced it's pulling the plug on its deluxe ice cream shops, a decision that cost the company about \$19 million in the fourth quarter. The partnership with the American dairy chain, which began in 2009, will continue in the Tim Hortons locations in the United States. TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS; PHOTO: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Beginning of the end of door mail delivery starts

Hey, Albertans. Bid adieu to your postie, as 11 centres kick off move to community boxes

Eleven centres will start collecting mail at community boxes this fall as Canada Post begins its move to end door-to-door delivery.

It's the first stage of a five-year plan announced in December and will involve about 100,000 addresses.

Canada Post says that in large cities during this phase, only a few neighbourhoods will be affected, and delivery will continue to businesses.

In the smaller municipalities, nearly all households and a higher proportion of businesses will move to community mailboxes.

Canada Post says these neighbourhoods are near areas that already have community mailboxes, so the infrastructure is already in place.

The Crown corporation will ask for feedback about the change for use as the program moves to other communities.

The national mail service says rising costs and falling mail volumes have made it impossible to continue its traditional operations.

It says only about one-third of Canadians are still getting home delivery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some Calgary areas, Fort McMurray hit

The 11 communities and the approximate number of affected addresses are:

- **Alberta.** Some neighbourhoods in Calgary (Postal codes start with T2B, T3J) (10,450 addresses) and Fort McMurray (8,450 addresses)
- **Manitoba.** Some neighbourhoods in Winnipeg (Postal codes start with R2P, R2V) (12,500 addresses)
- **Ontario.** Oakville (26,400 addresses.) Neighbourhoods in Kanata, near

Ottawa (Postal codes start with K2K, K2L, K2M) (7,900 addresses)

- **Quebec.** Rosemère (3,350 addresses); Lorraine (2,550 addresses); Bois-des-Filion (2,750 addresses); Charlemagne (1,300 addresses); Repentigny (14,400 addresses)
- **Nova Scotia.** Halifax neighbourhoods in the Lower Sackville and Bedford areas (Postal codes start with B4A, B4B, B4C, B4E, B4G) (9,950 addresses).

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CURLING GETS A BIT NUTTY

The world's most bizarre Olympics (and that's saying something) are cruising to a climax in Sochi this week, so it's only natural that all the follies are trending on social media.

1 The aim: to land the walnut in the centre of the nest. Perhaps the funniest video ever made. The BBC is responsible for running a video of the U.K. and U.S. Olympic women's curling match over a soundtrack of David Attenborough, in full plummy upper-crust roar, describing the mating ritual of some kind of exotic critter, while curlers point, sweep, curl the "walnut," and exhort each other strenuously. The walnut gets to be the rock. Curling finally makes some kind of sense.

2 Pound sand. Former Canadian Olympic chief Dick Pound gets a giggle on Twitter every time he's mentioned at Sochi merely because of his name. Somehow this guy managed to spend the last 50 years as a dedicated servant



THE METRO LIST
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

of amateur sport and as the world's foremost anti-doping crusader, only to trend on Twitter in his latter days because he's got a name that's more suited to a Sochi Tinder account.

3 And the gold medal for protesting at Sochi goes to... Pussy Riot. I'm not saying they went out of their way to get beaten up, but for sheer, er, punch, the YouTube video of the women of the Russian protest rock group getting beaten and whipped (yes, whipped) by members of the Cossack militia in front of the Sochi hoarding that surrounds the Olympic site is probably the most effective statement made against the whole fiasco. Their offence? Singing, "Putin will teach you how to love the motherland." OK, so it's not the song of the Vol-

ga Boatmen, but whipped?

4 Got a problem with that? The Sochi Games are plagued by so many problems @Sochi2014 still doesn't have as many fol-

lowers as @SochiProblems. Not even close: 263,000 for the former to 340,000 for the problems. The Russian-language problems site has an additional 171,000. D'oh! Or is that da!?

5 Meanwhile, over at the Shanghai Games. Not all the action is in Sochi. If you want see a real Olympian effort, how about two guys climbing the tallest building in China, the second tallest in the world, at 121 storeys and 632 metres? The hardest part? Once they got to the top, they have to look down.

6 Put down the phone. Step away from the table. French chefs are notorious prima donnas. But it's hard to argue with their latest source of outrage. Before they savour the savoury, diners are getting in the habit of documenting their meal and uploading the image to social media. "There is a time and place for everything," declares Alexandre Gauthier, chef of the Grenouillere in La Madeleine-sous-Montreuil. Not only that, it's bordering on gastronomic espionage. That will be 50 euros for the duck and 10 for the residuals. Or is that leftovers?

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ZOOM

Remembering a teammate



JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Nik Zoricic honoured by team

Canada's Christopher Delbosco, left, flies through the air during the eighth final of the men's ski cross at the Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia on Thursday.

Members of the Canadian ski cross team who would normally be dressed head-to-toe in red and white, designed denim-looking ski pants for their Olympic race in honour of Nik Zoricic, who died after an accident on the ski cross course in March 2012.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Denim makes a real statement in Sochi

When Toronto's Nik Zoricic began his ski cross career, he didn't have the right pants, so he wore blue jeans to the mountain.

Zoricic crashed through safety nets in a World Cup event, suffered severe head injuries and died in Grindelwald, Switzerland. Two months earlier, Canadian free skier Sarah Burke died in a training accident.

Canada's Brady Leman finished fourth Thursday in ski cross finals. France took all the medals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GETTY IMAGES

DrinkOwl:

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Findmytap:

This free app shows you which beer nearby watering holes carry. Use your iOS or Android to search for your favourite pint.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Some French restaurateurs want to eliminate food porn by banning smartphones while dining. Where would you ban smartphones?

@YvezBourgoin: movie theatres and concerts getting out of hand!

@5gatos: dislike all this "banning" how about ask your patrons nicely? Explain your views. #enoughrules

@jennifercw015: I agree with the restaurant and I would add a movie theatre or ordering anything from a customer service agent

@ramosjr: ya okay, now we can't have smart phones in restaurants! Not going to happen! Instead they should embrace it!

@dansgoodside: I'd ban them around my own dinner table so that my friends would actually pay attention to me!

@Zaedum: Smartphones are a part of the world and entered us into an age of connectivity. They shouldn't be banned anywhere, except planes

@scottmahoney94: Line ups in fast food restaurants while ordering

@insideoutsidemk: if I'm paying for the dish why can I not photograph it! Pro iphone! I wouldn't pay to go to said establishment

@ammarxghori: thats so stupid LOL food porn = public interest in the food via social media = more popularity/customers/interest

@_Escape_Artist: public places where it may be a negative distraction to both users and others. Theatres (of all kinds) especially

@Canucklehead_ca: Brett Farve's possession. (See also: US Senators.)

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SCENE

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Synopsis

Set in the shadow of the gurgling volcano Mount Vesuvius, *Pompeii* stars *Game of Thrones* heart-throb Kit Harington as the muscle-bound Milo. His tribe, including his entire family, was wiped out by the vicious Roman Senator Corvus (Kiefer Sutherland) dooming him to a lonely life of servitude under the thumb of Roman masters. Years later as a gladiator in Pompeii's coliseum he sees a way to exact revenge and save Cassia (Emily Brown), the most beautiful girl in the lush resort town. As warriors Milo and Atticus (Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje) battle Roman soldiers in the coliseum, the volcano erupts, causing havoc. Will Milo get vengeance and save Cassia before a rolling mountain of lava and ash covers the city?

- Richard: ●●●●●
- Mark: ●●●●●

Real Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



Pompeii opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Plenty of molten cheese

Pompeii. The volcano is the only actor in this film that shows any kind of fire and spark

Richard: Mark, the spirit of Steve Reeves lives on. If you aren't familiar with Mr. Reeves' oeuvre, he was Hercules before Kevin Sorbo, a legend of beefcake historical drama movies. His movies were all about bulging muscles, swinging swords and damsels in revealing togas. Which brings me to the spiritual cousin to the Reeves movies — *Pompeii* — which adds spewing lava, but not much else to the sword and sandal genre. Physically,

Jason Statham sound-a-like Harington is up to the heroic Reeves role but is slowed down by the thick layer of molten cheese that covers almost every frame of this film.

Mark: Richard, the movie reminded me of *Titanic*, but not in a good way. It's 90 minutes of derivative and irrelevant narrative, a love story between an upper class woman and a commoner, followed by a half hour of the special effects you came to see in the first place. Harington is fine, but it doesn't matter. The real star is the volcano, and unfortunately, it has the best lines. The gladiator plotline is inferior to other films in the same genre, although I thought the 20 slaves versus

20 centurions scene was handled with great verve.

RC: It does take too long for Mount Vesuvius to blow its top — complete with flying lava meteorites — and when it does, the special effects aren't quite as spectacular as you might hope from a CGI extravaganza. On top of that is muddy-looking 3D. The film overall is dark as though the whole thing was shot through a cloud of volcanic ash. Having said that, I didn't think the volcano had all the best lines. I got a kick out of a prison guard loudly waking up the jailed gladiators by shouting, "Wake up, scum!"

MB: Oh. I thought he was

shouting that to the audience. And poor Kiefer Sutherland, given a cardboard role in a papier-mâché film. I kept expecting him to look at the volcano and shout, "We're running out of time!" What I think I would have liked was a drama that showed a cross section of *Pompeii* life all too tragically snuffed out by the erupting volcano. But maybe that would have been *Pompeius*.

RC: Ha! I felt that when slave trader Graecus said, "You dragged me from a perfectly good brothel for this?" he was speaking directly to me.

MB: Unfortunately the movie didn't speak to me in any way, shape or form.

2 SCENE

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SCENE

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Seeing Paris through a gun barrel

3 Days to Kill. Touring the City of Light in car chases, dressed in stilettos and latex, was a wild ride for Amber Heard



NED
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Metro World News in Hollywood

Amber Heard has a ball playing Vivi, the trigger-happy, unsympathetic boss to Kevin Costner's retirement-age operative in *3 Days to Kill*. Vivi is all deadpan one-liners, stilettos and gun-play, something right out of the imagination of Luc Besson. Which makes sense, since the French filmmaker conceived of the story and co-wrote the script. But Heard's character's high-ranking position in the CIA came as something of a surprise to the actress, as it's something she didn't find out about until after she'd finished filming.



Amber Heard is the stiletto-wearing trigger-happy boss in *Three Days to Kill*, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

This doesn't seem too bad, as far as work goes.

I'll tell you what isn't bad: Driving through the streets of Paris, shooting a gun out of the window while Kevin Costner tries to steer for you, or getting in a fist fight with a stripper in front of [director] McG's cameras. I had

this incredible heightened reality that I had to exist in — I'm basically in a latex suit, full corset, a gun on my hip, shooting another gun with my free hand, wearing a platinum blonde wig and red lipstick, and this is right before I jump out of the car and assassinate a gangster. I

look over and I see the Arc de Triomphe or the Eiffel Tower and I'm in a gunfight — it was a very interesting way to see Paris that I didn't quite get from the tour bus.

Your character is in a very Luc Besson world, which just seems like a fun place to be.

Yeah, that was straight out of Luc Besson's head. There's something very liberating about playing a character that has no respect for the rules and the physical laws and the social norms that the rest of us are bound by. McG is a lot like Vivi in the fact that he's not really bound by

the same standards or stereotypes or rules or expectations that other people are. He was fine having this dynamic of a younger woman like myself being the overbearing boss in ways — almost a sadistic boss — to Kevin Costner's character. And normally you don't see that dynamic. You would see younger girl and a man like Kevin and you would imagine the dynamic be a romantic one or paternal, one of the two. You don't expect this relationship. I liked that.

In keeping with that Luc Besson world, you had some pretty impressive costumes. Any particular favourites?

None of them were my favourite, I'll just put it that way. None of the wardrobe was fun to wear. Maybe with the exception of that opening scene [that's more business casual], that was fine for me to do. What wasn't fine was wearing a latex dress in the dead of winter in Paris in heels running through cobblestone streets.

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Christensen's comeback. Canadian actor is back on the radar with new films

Hayden Christensen says it was "quite the adventure" filming the period piece *Outcast in China* — an experience that was heightened by his co-star Nicolas Cage.

The Vancouver-born actor of *Star Wars* fame said he was in and around Beijing for nearly four months shooting the action movie, which is set in the 12th century.

"We were filming out in the rural countryside for the most part and some incredible environments. And then working with Nic Cage was a real treat," Christensen said in a recent phone interview.

"He's everything that you expect and more. A super, super nice guy and one of the most professional actors I've ever gotten to work with."

Christensen said that he and Cage portray knights from the Crusades in the film. When the Canadian star first crossed paths with the Oscar winner, Cage already appeared well on his way towards being immersed in his on-screen

role.

"First time I met him, he was full on in character and didn't break character for the first couple of weeks," Christensen recalled. "He did a full-on English accent, he had like this wound on one eye, so he was walking around with one eye shut all of the time...."

"(He's) just a very dedicated guy. Showed up, he knew all of his lines for the entire movie before we started filming. Just incredibly prepared, and it was really cool to get to work with him because I was a fan."

The 32-year-old — who has starred in films including *Shattered Glass*, *Jumpier* and *Awake* — appears poised for a return to the big screen. In addition to shooting the recent project with Cage, he is set to appear alongside yet another Oscar winner, joining Adrien Brody in *American Heist*.

Filmed in New Orleans, Christensen said the pair portray brothers who get caught up with the wrong crowd and "decide it's a



Hayden Christensen.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

good idea to go rob a bank." Christensen catapulted to international fame with his starring role as Anakin Skywalker in two of the *Star Wars* prequels: 2002's *Episode II — Attack of the Clones* and *Episode III — Revenge of the Sith*, which was released in 2005.

The storied sci-fi franchise will be revived once again with the Walt Disney Co. producing a new *Star Wars* trilogy set to take place after the original three space epics.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thriller



3 Days to Kill

Director: McG

Stars: Kevin Costner, Amber Heard

In this heart pounding action-thriller, Kevin Costner is a dangerous international spy, who is determined to give up his high stakes life to finally build a closer relationship with his estranged wife and daughter, whom he's previously kept at arm's length to keep out of danger. But first, he must complete one last mission.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: Audience:
No reviews yet + 95 %

Film studios still put their faith in religion

God is dead? He might be in some parts, but he's alive and well at the box office

ANNE BRODIE
scene@metronews.ca

With a number of Biblical-themed films slated for release in 2014, religious films are back in vogue a decade after Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* earned \$611 million and became the highest grossing non-English language film of all time.

In a time when religion is on the wane in North America, religious movies seem to still have box office draw and studios are readily throwing money behind them. John Pungente, director of the Jesuit Communication Project in Toronto, says studios continue to

make them for one big reason. "Money. Studios are taking a leap of faith that films with religious figures as super heroes who save the world will bring in big money like *The Passion of the Christ*."

Last year's most watched TV cable miniseries, *The Bible*, from devout Christians Roma Downey and Mark Burnett, averaged 11.4 million viewers per episode and became the top-selling DVD miniseries ever — 525,000 copies were sold in the first week. Burnett made the series over strenuous objections in Hollywood.

Downey and Burnett's feature film on the life of Christ, *Son of God* is in theatres next week and Darren Aronofsky's *Noah* with Russell Crowe and *Exodus*, Ridley Scott's biblical epic starring Christian Bale as Moses are also due out this year.

Next year, we'll see *Ang Lee's Gods and Kings*, currently in development, and *Mary (Mother of Christ)* with Odeya

Quoted

"We go to see movies that attract us because we are seekers, pop pilgrims."

Jesuit Communication Project director John Pungente on the mass appeal of religious films

Rush, Ben Kingsley and the late Peter O'Toole. All are big budget special effects epics.

Burnett, best known for his pioneering work in reality TV, says producing religious content is more than just a money maker.

"This is for billions of people the most important story in their lives," he says.

Religious films have been everything from good to (excuse the pun) God-awful.

They also often polarize audiences, inspiring protests, boycotts and heated debate. Consider the graphic torture



Son of God opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

scenes in *The Passion of the Christ* and Willem Dafoe's moment of doubt in *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

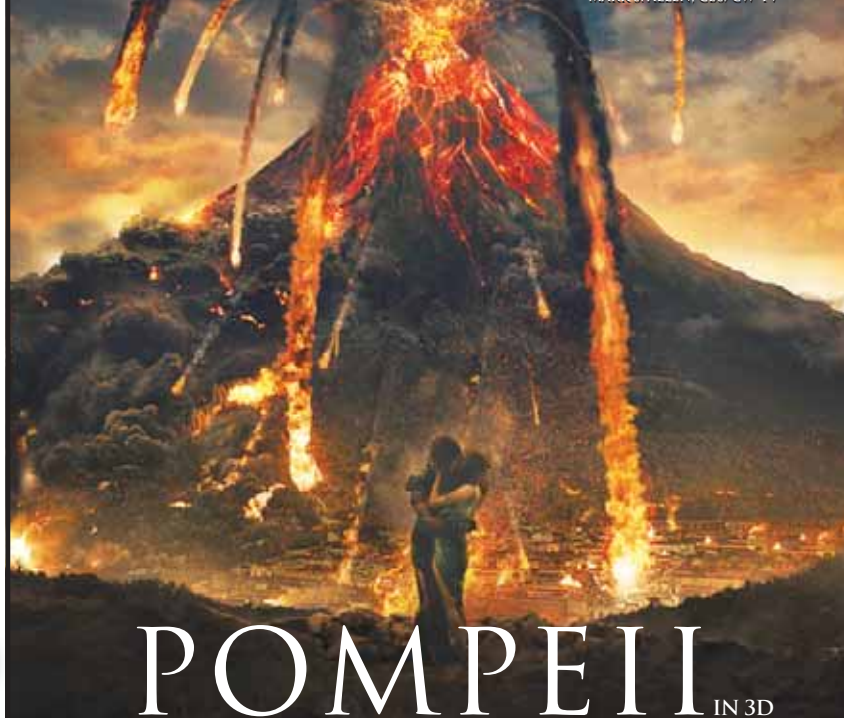
Pungente says a good religious film has certain qualities. "It touches something inside of you, it moves you, if you can connect with the 'message' of the film, find answers to questions you've had and find we're more than we thought."

"We go to see movies that attract us because we are

seekers, pop pilgrims. We are exercising, consciously or not, a religious sensibility, that engages us in the rituals of self-transcendence, or classic spiritual enlightenment. It's more than media literacy; it is genuine spiritual literacy that grows out of the pop culture in this mass mediated world. So *Beasts of the Southern Wild* or *Life of Pi* can be seen as religious a pair of films as *The Passion of the Christ* or *Son of God*."

"NOT SINCE *TITANIC* HAS HISTORY SO PERFECTLY MET ROMANCE."

MARK S. ALLEN, CBS/CW-TV



POMPEII IN 3D

14+ VIOLENCE

Constantin Film

POMPEIIMOVIE.CA
FACEBOOK.COM/EONEFILMS
YOUTUBE.COM/EONEFILMS

IMMEDIATE PICTURES
POMPEII 3D

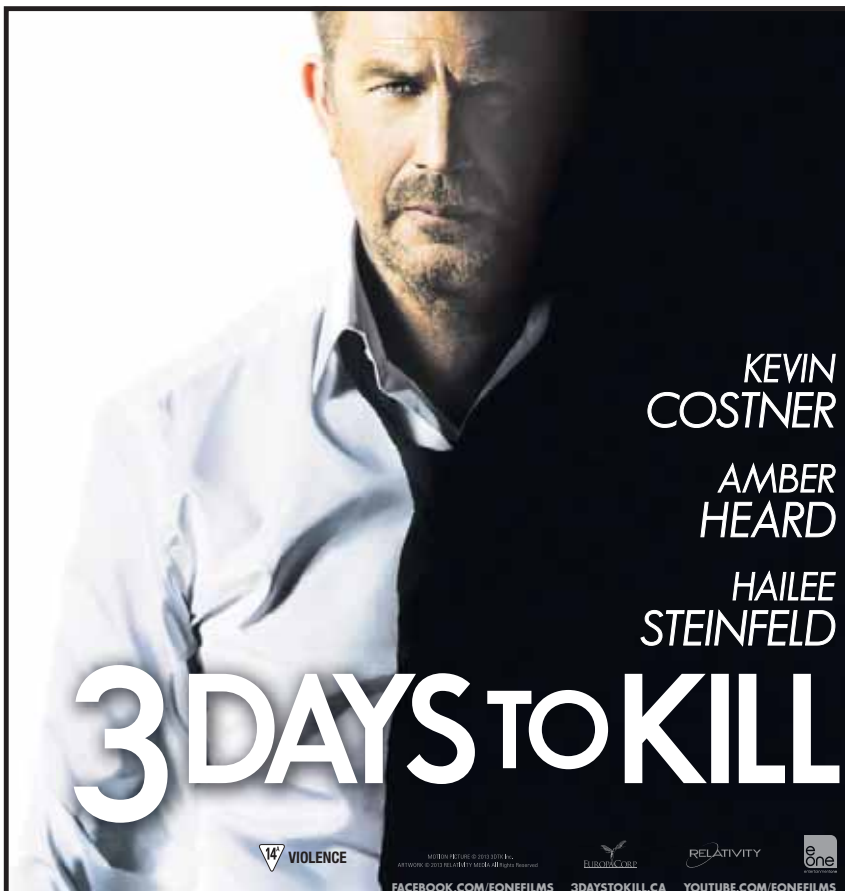
3D

e one

STARTS TODAY SEE IT IN real D 3D, DIGITAL 3D OR 2D
Check Theatre Directory for Locations & Showtimes.

ENTERTAINMENT ONE

e one



KEVIN COSTNER

AMBER HEARD

HAILEE STEINFELD

3 DAYS TO KILL

14+ VIOLENCE

FACEBOOK.COM/EONEFILMS

3DAYSTOKILL.CA

YOUTUBE.COM/EONEFILMS

STARTS TODAY Check Theatre Directory for Locations & Showtimes.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., FEB. 21 TO THURS., FEB. 27. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

City Centre 9 Cinemas
10200 102nd Ave.

3 Days to Kill (14A) Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-7-9:50 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Mon 3:30-7-9:50 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Tue 12:30-3:30-7-9:50 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Wed-Thu 3:30-7-9:50

Endless Love (PG) , Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-7:10-9:45 , Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Tue 12:40-3:40-7:10-9:45 , Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Wed-Thu 3:40-7:10-9:45

Her (14A) Stadium Seating, Digital Presentation, Fri-Sun 1-3:55-7:30-10:10 Stadium Seating, Digital Presentation, Mon 3:55-7:30-10:10 Stadium Seating, Digital Presentation, Tue 1-3:55-7:30-10:10 Stadium Seating, Digital Presentation, Wed-Thu 3:55

The LEGO Movie (G) , Digital Presentation Fri-Thu 3:20

The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Fri-Mon 12:20-6:50-9:25 Digital Presentation, Tue-Wed 6:50-9:25 Thu 6:50

The Monuments Men (PG) Digital Presentation, Fri-Sun 12:05-3-6:30-9:15 Digital Presentation, Mon 3-6:30-9:15 Digital Presentation, Tue 12:05-3-6:30-9:15 Digital Presentation, Wed-Thu 3-6:30-9:15

Non-Stop (PG) Thu 9:25

Pompeii (14A) Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Fri-Thu 3:15

Pompeii 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-6:40-9:30 Mon 6:40-9:30 Tue 12:15-6:40-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:30

RoboCop (PG) Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Fri-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:35-9:20 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Mon 3:10-6:35-9:20 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Tue 12:10-3:10-6:35-9:20 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Wed 3:10-6:35-9:10 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Thu 3:10-6:35-9:20

Winter's Tale (PG) Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:20-10 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation Mon 3:50-7:20-10 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation Tue 12:50-3:50-7:20-10 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation Wed 3:50-10 Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation Thu 3:50-7:20-10

The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Digital Presentation Fri-Thu 12-4-7:45

Clareview 10 Cinemas
4211 139th Ave.

Endless Love (PG) , Digital Presentation, , Fri 7-9:40 , Digital Presentation, , Sat-Sun 12:20-3-7-9:40 , Digital Presentation, , Mon-Thu 6:30-9:10

Frozen (G) Digital Presentation, , Sat-Sun 12:15-2:55

The LEGO Movie (G) Digital Presentation, , Fri 6:30-9 Digital Presentation, , Sat-Sun 12-2:45-6:30-9 Digital Presentation, , Mon-Thu 6-8:30

The LEGO Movie 3D (G) , Fri 6:50-9:15 , Sat-Sun 12:30-3:10-6:50-9:15 , Mon-Thu 6:20-8:45

The Monuments Men (PG) Digital Presentation, , Fri 6:40-9:30 Digital Presentation, , Sat-Sun 12:10-3:05-6:40-9:30 Digital Presentation, , Mon-Thu 6:10-9

Non-Stop (PG) , Digital Presentation, , Thu 9:15

Pompeii (14A) Digital Presentation, , Sat-Sun 3:25

Pompeii 3D (14A) Digital Presentation, , Fri 7:05-9:40 , Sat-Sun 12:35-7:05-9:40 Digital Presentation, , Mon-Thu 6:35-9:10

Ride Along (PG) Digital Presentation, , Fri 7:15-9:45 Digital Presentation, , Sat-Sun 12:25-2:50-7:15-9:45 Digital Presentation, , Mon-Wed 6:45-9:15 Digital Presentation, , Thu 6:45

RoboCop (PG) Digital Presentation, , Fri 6:35-6:55-9:25-9:45 Digital Presentation, , Sat-Sun 12:05-3:05-6:35-6:55-9:25-9:45 Digital Presentation, , Mon-Thu 6:05-6:25-8:55-9:15

The Saratov Approach (PG) Digital Presen-



Winter's Tale. CONTRIBUTED

tation, , Fri 6:45-9:25 Digital Presentation, , Sat-Sun 12:10-3:15-6:45-9:25 Digital Presentation, , Mon-Thu 6:15-8:55

Winter's Tale (PG) Digital Presentation, , Fri 6:45-9:35 Digital Presentation, , Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:45-9:35 Digital Presentation, , Mon-Thu 6:15-9:05

Metro Cinema at the Garneau 8712 109 St.

Asphalt Watches (STC) Fri 7 Wed 9

Boyz n the Hood (STC) Tue 9

Enemy (14A) Sat 7

Music for Mandela (STC) Thu 7

Nebraska (14A) Fri 9:30 Sat 4 Sun 4:15 Mon 9

Rock 'n' Roll Nightmare (STC) Wed 7

Sarah Prefers to Run (STC) Mon 7

Shorts Programme (STC) Sun 7

Tom at the Farm (14A) Tue 7

Vic & Flo Saw a Bear (14A) Sun 12:30

Watermark (PG) Sun 2:30

When Jews Were Funny (PG) Sat 2

Movies 12, 5074 130 Ave.

47 Ronin (PG) Fri-Sun 1:25 Tue 1:25 Thu 1:25

47 Ronin 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:05-7:10-9:50

The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-6:50 Mon 6:50 Tue 1:05-6:50 Wed 6:50 Thu 1:05-6:50

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:10 Mon 4:10 Tue 1:45-4:10 Wed 4:10 Thu 1:45-4:10

Devil's Due (14A) Fri-Thu 7:30-9:45

Gunday (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:40-8:50 Mon 4:40-8:50 Tue 1:15-4:40-8:50 Wed 4:40-8:50 Thu 1:15-4:40-8:50

Hasee Toh Phasee (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:55-8:45 Mon 4:55-8:45 Tue 1:50-4:55-8:45 Wed 4:55-8:45 Thu 1:50-4:55-8:45

Highway (STC) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:45-8 Mon 4:45-8 Tue 1:30-4:45-8 Wed 4:45-8 Thu 1:30-4:45-8

Homefront (14A) Fri-Thu 9:25

Ishq Brandy (STC) Fri-Sun 2-5-9 Mon 5-9 Tue 2-5-9 Wed 5-9 Thu 2-5-9

Nebraska (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4-7:05-9:55 Mon 4-7:05-9:55 Tue 1:20-4-7:05-9:55 Wed 4-7:05-9:55 Thu 1:20-4-7:05-9:55

Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (14A) Fri-Thu 4:20-10

Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:55-7-9:45 Mon 3:55-7-9:45 Tue 1-3:55-7-9:45 Wed 3:55-7-9:45 Thu 1-3:55-7-9:45

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:45-6:40-9:20 Mon 3:45-6:40-9:20 Tue 1:10-3:45-6:40-9:20 Wed 3:45-6:40-9:20 Thu 1:10-3:45-6:40-9:20

Starting Over Again (STC) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:50-6:45-9:40 Mon 3:50-6:45-9:40 Tue 12:55-3:50-6:45-9:40 Wed 3:50-6:45-9:40 Thu 12:55-3:50-6:45-9:40

Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40

Tue 1:40 Thu 1:40

Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30-7:20

North Edmonton Cinemas
14231 137th Ave.

3 Days to Kill (14A) Fri 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Sat 11:10-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Sun-Tue 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Wed 4:40-7:30-10:20 Thu 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

About Last Night (14A) Fri-Sat 2-4:50-7:40-10:15 Sun 1-4:50-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 2-4:50-7:40-10:15

Cats & Dogs (STC) Sat 11

Endless Love (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:20-6:45-10:10 Wed 3:40-6:45-10:10 Thu 12:40-3:20-6:45-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

Frozen (G) Fri 1:30-4:10 Sat 11:40-1:35-4:10 Sun-Thu 1:30-4:10

Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Thu 6:50

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 8:45

I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 9:20

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri-Wed 9 Thu 10:15

The LEGO Movie (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:35 Fri 11:50-1:20-4-6:30 Sat 11-11:30-11:50-1:30-4-6:30 Sun 11:50-1:20-4-6:30 Mon-Thu 1:20-4-6:30

The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 12:50-3:50-7-9:50 Sat 1-3:50-7-9:50 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:50-7-9:50

Non-Stop (PG) Thu 9

The Nut Job (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:10 Mon-Thu 2:05

The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:30-6:40

Pompeii 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:20-8:10-10:45 Mon-Thu 2:10-5-7:50-10:30

Ride Along (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-5:10-7:45-10:25 Mon-Wed 2:15-5:10-7:45-10:25 Thu 2:15-5:10-7:45

RoboCop (PG) Fri-Sun 2:15-5-7:50-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:35-10:25

Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Moulin Rouge: The Ballet (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7

That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri-Sat 1-3:30-8:20-10:45 Sun 3:30-8:20-10:45

Mon-Tue 1-3:30-7:20-9:45 Wed 1-3:30-10:05 Thu 1-3:30-7:20-9:45

Winter's Tale (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:10-10

The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Sat 2:30-6:20-9:15 Sun-Thu 2:40-6:20-9:15

Princess I & II 10337 Whyte Ave.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 9 Sat-Sun 3-9 Mon-Thu 9

The Invisible Woman (PG) Fri 9:10 Sat-Sun 3:15-9:10 Mon-Thu 9:10

Sex After Kids (18A) Fri 6:50 Sat-Sun 1:15-6:50 Mon-Thu 6:50

Scotiabank Theatre
West Mall, 8882 170th St.

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sun 10:45

Mon-Thu 9:30

Endless Love (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Mon-Wed 1-3:40-7:15-9:50 Thu 1:20-4:20-6:50-10:20

Frozen (G) Fri-Thu 4

Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Thu 7

Frozen Sing-Along (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Thu 2:20

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:55

I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Fri 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:35 Sat 8:10-10:35 Sun 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:35 Mon 2:30-5:15-10:25 Tue-Wed 2:30-5:15-8-10:25 Thu 2:30-5:15-10:25

The LEGO Movie (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15 Mon-Tue 1:15-3:50-6:45 Wed 3:50-6:45 Thu 1:15-3:50-6:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 2:15-4:50-7:30-10

The Monuments Men (PG) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:10-10:15 Wed 4:20-7:10-10:15 Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

National Theatre Live: Coriolanus - Encore (STC) Sat 12:30

National Theatre Live: War Horse - Encore (STC) Thu 7

Non-Stop (PG) Thu 9:30

Pompeii 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:45 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:25-10:15

Ride Along (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:55-10:30 Sun 12:05-2:30-10:30 Mon-Wed 2:10-4:40-7:55-10:30 Thu 2:10-4:40-7:55

RoboCop: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 2-4:45-7:40-10:40 Mon-Thu 2-4:45-7:40-10:30

Takedown: The DNA of GSP (14A) Sat 4:30 Mon 7:30

That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:50-5-10-10:20

Winter's Tale (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10

The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Sun 9:45 Mon-Thu 9:40

WWE Elimination Chamber - 2014 (STC) Sun 6

South Edmonton Common
1525 99th St.

3 Days to Kill (14A) Fri-Sat 2-4:45-7:30-10:20 Sun 1:25-4:15-7:05-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:30

About Last Night (14A) Fri 12:30-3-5:30-7:55-10:25 Sat 12:35-4:10-7:15-10:15 Sun 1-4:50-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 1:25-4-6:40-9:35

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sun 9:50

Mon-Thu 9:15

Cats & Dogs (STC) Sat 11

Endless Love (PG) Fri-Sat 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:30 Sun 2:05-4:35-7:20-9:55

Mon-Thu 1:55-4:40-7:15-9:45

Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:55 Mon-Thu 1:05-3:40

Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 6:45 Mon-Thu 6:20

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Sat 12 Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 2:05

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 3:30-6:55-10:20 Sun 4:10-8 Mon-Thu 5:45-9:25

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sat 12:25-3:35-6:50-10:30 Sun 1:10-4:55-8:05 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:50-8

I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Fri 12:45-3:20-5:50-8:20-10:50 Sat 6:40-9:40 Sun 9:40

Mon-Tue 1:55-4:55-7:25-9:45 Wed 1:55-4:45-9:50 Thu 1:55-4:45

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Sun 11:40-2:20-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:05-6:45-9:20

The LEGO Movie (G) Fri 1:50-4:25-7 Sat 11:05-11:30-1:50-4:25-7 Sun 11:30-1:50-4:25-7 Mon-Wed 1:20-3:55-6:25 Thu 3:55-6:25 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri-Sat 12-2:30-5-7:25-10:10 Sun 12-2:30-5:05-7:35-10:05 Mon-Thu 2-4:25-7-9:30

The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:55 Sat 1:25-4:20-7:10-9:55 Sun 1-3:50-6:55-10 Mon-Wed 1-4:10-7:10-9:55 Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-9:55

National Theatre Live: Coriolanus - Encore (STC) Sat 12:30

National Theatre Live: War Horse (STC) Thu 7

Non-Stop (PG) Thu 9:40

The Nut Job (G) Fri-Sat 12:20 Sun 11:45 Mon-Thu 2:25

Pompeii 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:40 Sun 12:05-2:25-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:30-10:10

Ride Along (PG) Fri-Sat 12:10-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:15 Sun 11:55-2:40-5:25-7:50-10:15 Mon-Wed 1:45-4:20-6:55-9:40 Thu 1:45-4:20-6:55

RoboCop (PG) Fri 2:05-4:50-7:40-10:40 Sat 2:05-4:50-7:40-10:35 Sun 1:55-4:40-7:25-10:10 Mon-Tue 1:10-4:15-7:05-9:50 Wed 1:10-4:15-7:05-10:10 Thu 1:10-4:15-7:05-9:50

Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Moulin Rouge: The Ballet (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7

Takedown: The DNA of GSP (14A) Sat 4:30

That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri 2:40-5:40-8:05-10:35 Sat 2:40-5:40-8:05-10:25 Sun 2:25-4:50-7:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 5-7:40-10

Winter's Tale (PG) Fri 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:05 Sat 1:40-4:35-7:20-10:05 Sun 1:40-4:30-7:20-9:55 Mon-Wed 1:15-4:30-7:20-10:05 Thu 4:30-7:20-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Sat 9:45 Sun 9:20 Mon-Thu 9:10

WWE Elimination Chamber - 2014 (STC) Sun 6

TELUS World of Science
Edmonton Space And Science Centre,
1121-142 St.,

Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Mon 4:20 Thu 4:20

Flight of the Butterflies 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1 Wed 4:20

Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4:35-9:10 Sun 3:25 Thu 7:45

Jerusalem 3D (G) Fri-Sat 11-2:10-3:20-6:50-8 Sun 11-2:10-5:15-6:30 Mon-Wed 2-3:10 Thu 3:10-5:15-6:30

Rocky Mountain Express (G) Sat-Sun 12 Tue 4:20

To the Arctic 3D (G) Fri 12 Thu 2

Grandin Theatres
101-22 Sir Winston Churchill Ave. St. Albert

Endless Love (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:10-5:20-7:35-9:40

Frozen (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:15

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG)

Fri-Thu 8:30

The LEGO Movie (G) Fri-Thu 1-3-5-7-9

The Monuments Men (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:10-9:30

RoboCop (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-6:55-9:20

Galaxy Cinemas
Sherwood Park
2020 Sherwood Dr.

Cats & Dogs (STC) Sat 11

Endless Love (PG) Fri 4:40-7:20-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:55

Frozen (G) Sat-Sun 11:30-2:10

Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:50-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:20

The LEGO Movie (G) Fri 4:35-7:10 Sat-Sun 11:30-2-4:35-7:10 Mon-Thu 7

The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 5:15-7:50-10:25 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:15

Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Sun 10:10 Mon-Thu 10

The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 3:50-6:45-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:50-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30

The Nut Job (G) Fri 5:20-7:40 Sat-Sun 12:40-3-5:20-7:40 Mon-Thu 7:25

Pompeii 3D (14A) Fri 5:05-7:45-10:30 Sat-Sun 11:45-2:25-5:05-7:45-10:30 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:10

Ride Along (PG) Fri 5:25-8-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 7:45-10:15

RoboCop (PG) Fri 4:05-7-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:05-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50

That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri-Sun 9:50 Mon-Thu 9:35

Vampire Academy (PG) Fri-Sun 10 Mon-Thu 9:45

Winter's Tale (PG) Fri 3:55-6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-3:55-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:40

Leduc Cinemas
4702 50th St., Leduc

Endless Love (PG) Fri 6-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:35-6-9:35 Mon-Thu 6-9:35

The LEGO Movie (G) Sat-Sun 1:05 Tue 7:05

The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 7:05-9:40 Sat-Sun 3:40-7:05-9:40 Mon 7:05-9:40 Tue 9:40 Wed-Thu 7:05-9:40

Pompeii (14A) Sat-Sun 12:50

Pompeii 3D (14A) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 3:30-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30

RoboCop (PG) Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:35-6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:35 5

Cineplex Odeon Wildermere & VIP Cinemas
6151 Currents Drive NW

3 Days to Kill (14A) Fri 4:30-7:30-10:30 Sat 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 7-9:55

Endless Love (PG) Fri 4:40-7:30-10 Sat 12:20-2:50-5:20-8-10:40 Sun 1:10-4-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:15

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri 10 Sat 9 Sun 9:15 Mon-Thu 9:35

The LEGO Movie (G) Fri 4:20-7:10 Sat 1-3:40-6:20 Sun 1:30-4:05-6:40 Mon-Thu 7:05

The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 3:50-6:30-9:10 Sat 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Sun 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:10

The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 4:15-7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:35-9:40 Fri 5-8:30 Sat 1:30-5-8:30 Sun 2:30-6-9:30 Mon-Thu 8:30

RoboCop (PG) Fri 3:40-6:40-9:40 Sat 12:45-4-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:45 Fri 7-10:15 Sat 2:30-6-9:30 Sun 1:45-5-8:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri 4:50-7:40-10:20 Sat 1:40-4:20-7-10 Sun 12:40-3:15-5:45-8:15 Mon-Tue 7:10-9:30 Thu 7:10-9:30

Winter's Tale (PG) Fri 6-9:30 Sat 12:30-3:45-7:15-10:30 Sun 12:45-3:45-7:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:45

The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 4-8 Sat 2-6:10-10:10 Sun 12:45-4:45-8:45 Mon-Thu 8

Game of Thrones cast promises a new season full of twists and turns

Action packed.

Offscreen pals Kristian Nairn and Isaac Hempstead-Wright say season four will deliver the goods

While the much buzzed-about Red Wedding episode delivered a gut punch to Game of Thrones fans, the new season of the fantasy epic appears poised to do more of the same with the potential for plenty of fresh plot twists.

"Some people thought that after the Red Wedding that that would be a major pinnacle of the action," said Kristian Nairn, who portrays Hodor in the hit series during a recent interview in Toronto alongside co-star Isaac Hempstead-Wright (Bran Stark).

"But it doesn't let up, the action doesn't let up, and season four is definitely non-stop."

Dressed casually in a hoodie, T-shirt and jeans with miniature tattoos of stars dotted above his right eye, the affable actor is strikingly different than his Games character Hodor, the simple-minded servant for the Starks. Hodor becomes a trusted companion to young Bran, tasked with carrying the boy who is paralyzed after being pushed from a tower window.

The onscreen kinship between Nairn and Hempstead-Wright has translated away from the cameras, as the pair share a laugh prior to their interview looking on a mobile phone at a photo of a dog sent in by a fan.



Stars of HBO's hit series Game of Thrones, Kristian Nairn (Hodor) and Isaac Hempstead-Wright (Bran Stark) pose at a publicity event in Toronto this week. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"We're definitely close in real life — and we didn't really have a choice not to be close. We were sort of forced into each other's proximity. I hope it comes across on camera," said Nairn.

"I'm very protective of Isaac — even in real life. I would like to think that that shows in the character."

Still, despite relishing his role, hoisting Hempstead-Wright on his back for lengthy shoots — often with several

retakes — has become a bit of an occupational hazard for the six-foot-10 Nairn.

"Painful. I've got numerous back injuries because of it," said Nairn. "He's literally three times the size he was when I first met him."

He looks at Hempstead-Wright: "You were four stone (56 pounds) when I first met you."

"I think I'm twice that now," the 14-year-old replied.

"Maybe more," countered

Nairn. "I'll bet more."

"What have you got against my weight?" asked Hempstead-Wright, teasingly.

Nairn lets out a hearty laugh.

"On my back, I've got against it," he replied, jokingly. "He's definitely grown quite a lot."

For Hempstead-Wright, who lives in a secluded rural part of Kent in the U.K., he says life remains very much the same as when he first joined the ac-

Quoted

"The characters make the show what it is because they're rich, there's intrigue, you never know what they're thinking or whether they're going to completely change tack."

Isaac Hempstead-Wright, who plays Bran Stark

claimed series, filming the pilot at age 10. Given the show's very adult subject matter, he admits his mother "didn't really want to watch it at all."

"It was a process, but in a sense that the violence wasn't so much a problem because you knew that it was all fake. You'd be walking around with dead bodies on the ground and taking pictures of them," he said. "My mum found the sex a bit more of a problem, and she just gave me equally inappropriate talks about it all."

Nairn said season four will be interesting in terms of story arc as the duo are joined by Jojen and Meera Reed (Thomas Brodie-Sangster and Ellie Kendrick) as they journey beyond the Wall along the northern border — and into potential danger.

"We're doing the complete sort of illogical thing because everybody else is trying to run as far away from the north as possible, and we're running straight into it," said Hempstead-Wright.

Neither of the stars have read the George R.R. Martin books but both are keen to read the scripts and admit there are inherent advantages to being a part of such a large ensemble.

"They need to have a big cast and the introduction to new characters to counter the huge loss every 10 minutes

of different characters," said Hempstead-Wright.

"The characters make the show what it is because they're rich, there's intrigue, you never know what they're thinking or whether they're going to completely change tack. They interweave, and when you think one is completely miles away, they suddenly collide and you get this whole new storyline."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DVD release

Prior to the April 6 season premiere on HBO Canada, fans can revisit or catch up on the world of Westeros with Game of Thrones: The Complete Third Season now available on DVD, Blu-ray and for digital download.

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With new album, Stephen Malkmus assures us he's 'just busy being me'

Never a cliché. Jicks frontman has a love for pop, but can't help marching to the beat of his own drummer

PAT
HEALY
Metro World News

When we tell Stephen Malkmus that a lot of the songs on his new album with the Jicks, *Wig Out at Jagbags*, sound like classic rock, but with lyrics that are likely too clever for casual classic rock fans to embrace, we accidentally tap into a brief vein of existential angst.

"It doesn't last long, it doesn't really give you a pay off, it's like a tease, a tease of that kind of stuff; an elusive classic rock with no payoff," he begins to consider.

"That's sort of what I feel like life is often like. The big payoffs, we know they are false and we know that they have already been done. It's like we know our presidents lie and that there are huge losers in capitalism, it's part of our identity in this era."

But Malkmus seems like he's OK with this. He also seems fully immersed in



Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks LEAH NASH

this era.

He's been taking his kids, aged six and nine, to see concerts by pop acts like Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and Lorde.

"I think that's how music is too," he says about the false big payoffs. "I can get transported by a person's voice occasionally and when it's the right mix of

some emotion, just luckily sometimes. I can feel something transcendent occasionally, but even then I am kind of left just saying, 'Oh hey, nice work! They pulled

that off.'"

If Malkmus sounds cynical in conversation, the content on *Wig Out* is at the opposite end of the spectrum.

There's the aforementioned elusive classic rock sound, as well as sounds that are almost easy listening. The lyrics feel dashed off, but are never clichéd.

On Independence Street, one of the most classic rockiest tracks, Malkmus sings, "I don't have the stomach for your brandy/I can hardly sip your tea/I don't have no teeth left for your candy/I'm just busy being me."

There's even a nostalgic ode to going to see punk rock shows with Rumble at the Rainbo. It's important to note that the song about punk rock is not actually a punk rock song. It's more of a showy pop number.

For as long as Malkmus has been writing songs, he's always defied conventions, especially in his early beginnings with Pavement (this year historically marks the year that the Jicks have existed longer than Pavement).

But one has to wonder, will Malkmus ever take an honest stab at something that does give the masses that payoff?

"There's no point to do-

ing that for us," he says. "I just kind of don't have the mind for that. The thing to do is to make a catchphrase whatever it is, I Put a Spell on You, Daydream Believer, just one thing, and that's kind of the song and then it all just flows around that. That's a pop song, lyrically."

"I think I probably could write one of those lines and keep repeating it at the chorus and it almost doesn't even matter what you say, except that some things might be poetic in rare cases, or even not even poetic but emotional, but that formula just feels like a jingle-writer to me."

"I have thought about it, I understand it, and I appreciate the simple genius of people that can do that. I don't think it's anything really to talk down about, I just don't do it. Maybe I can't do it. It doesn't interest me. I like the sentiment of songs that do that. It encapsulates a lot of feeling in a small amount of words."

Tour dates

Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks will be playing a series of dates in Western Canada come April. Check out stephenmalkmus.com for details.

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Montage snub. Arsenio Hall doesn't mind if NBC uses a photo of some other black guy, just mention him, OK?

NBC News anchor Brian Williams had a quick on-air response after Arsenio Hall needed him for excluding Hall from a video montage of late-night hosts: Oops.

"Arsenio is a late-night veteran and he took us to task on his show and he even urged his audience members to call our newsroom," Williams said on his Nightly News telecast Wednesday from the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

"So, in apologizing to Arsenio, we just wanted to point out: at least you're in good company here," Williams continued, noting that the newscast last year left New Hampshire off a map and on Tuesday misspelled Philadelphia on-screen.

Hall's exclusion came during what he called NBC News' "Brady Bunch montage" showing clips of virtually every late-night TV host, including David Letterman, Chelsea Handler and Carson Daly.

The video was used on Monday's Nightly News segment on The Tonight Show debut of Jimmy Fallon, also on NBC.

On Tuesday's syndicated The Arsenio Hall Show, the host was smiling but clearly irked as he displayed the graphic and called out Williams and journalism in general.

"If you're doing a story about late-night, all I ask is that you mention me," Hall said. "You don't even have to use a photo. I know how journalism is these days. Use Samuel Jackson — it doesn't even have to be my photo. Use Laurence



This is a photo of neither Laurence Fishburne nor Samuel L. Jackson, but is in fact the one and only Arsenio Hall. Hall ribbed NBC for leaving him out of a video montage of late-night hosts. HANDOUT

Quoted

"You don't even have to use a photo. I know how journalism is these days. Use Samuel Jackson — it doesn't even have to be my photo. Use Laurence Fishburne. Just mention me."

Arsenio Hall

Fishburne. Just mention me."

Hall invoked the names of the two actors who were involved in another recent media mishap: A TV reporter interviewing Jackson apparently confused him with Fishburne. Both are black.

The late-night landscape is nearly all white, with a few exceptions including Hall and PBS' Tavis Smiley.

"There's nobody even with a

tan," Hall said of the montage shown by NBC News.

Hall, saying he's the only current late-night host "who competed and survived against Johnny Carson," said he had no grudge with his other hosts. Hall's new show debuted in September; his original late-night show aired from 1989 until 1994, when Carson hosted Tonight.

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Family dysfunction and medical mayhem can Remedy your TV blues

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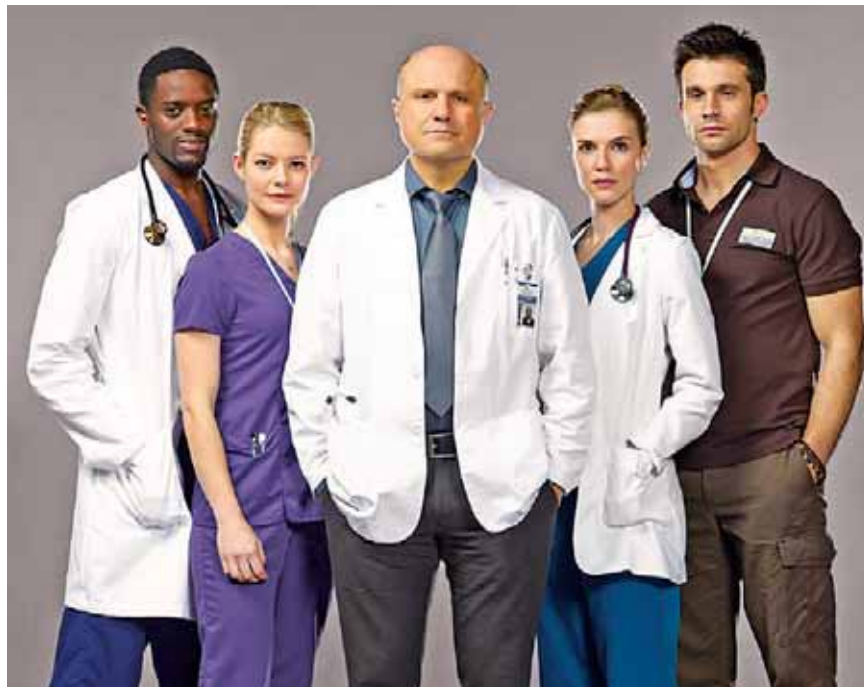
Star Enrico Colantoni says show brings a different dynamic to a tried-and-true genre

Family problems collide with hospital chaos in Global's new series *Remedy*, a Toronto-set hospital drama that star Enrico Colantoni says puts a new spin on the well-worn genre.

The former *Flashpoint* lead plays a hospital boss and loving patriarch in his role as acting chief of staff Dr. Allen Conner, who oversees a white-coat crew including youngest daughter/surgeon Dr. Melissa Conner, eldest daughter/intensive care unit nurse Sandy Conner and her doctor fiancé, Brian Decker, and prodigal son/hospital porter Griffin Conner.

"That's what makes this show unique and fresh and different than other medical dramas," Colantoni said in a recent interview alongside co-star Dillon Casey, who plays the floundering Griffin.

"There's a dysfunction and the dynamic of that family inside this world that I don't think I've ever seen on TV. You watch *Grey's Anatomy* and they always refer to themselves as, 'We're family,' but this is actually family — with all the ugliness of family. It's not all pretty."



The cast of *Remedy* are no strangers to the small screen. GLOBAL

Those conflicting duties play out in a myriad of ways, he continues, pointing to one early storyline in which Sandy, played by Murdoch Mysteries actress Sarah Allen, willingly defies hospital policy.

"But she's got her dad who's going to either hold her accountable or not," notes Colantoni, also known for playing dad/private investigator Keith

Mars on *Veronica Mars*.

"If it was just another medical drama, the chief of staff would hold her accountable or maybe they'd have a love relationship or something that would complicate it. But we're dealing with my daughters messing up — not just any nurse. My son is coming back, my other daughter is messing up, these are things

that you get in a family drama that you don't otherwise get in a medical drama." That's not to say there isn't the standard trauma-of-the-week.

Allen says those juicy tales abound, but the patient stories tend to serve a larger theme by mirroring the emotional or psychological turmoil going on within the family.

"And so often the patient

No Grey areas here

"You watch *Grey's Anatomy* and they always refer to themselves as, 'We're family,' but this is actually family — with all the ugliness of family. It's not all pretty."

Enrico Colantoni, actor, on the differences between *Remedy* and one of its competitors

will end up being the one who cures the doctor or the nurse or the orderly or whoever," Allen says in a separate interview alongside *Vampire Diaries* actress Sara Canning, who plays Melissa.

"We affect each other — everyone who enters the hospital affects one another."

As a general surgeon, Canning's character Melissa gets some of the bloodiest scenes, with the actress joking that she's "sticking (her) hands in prosthetic livers all the time."

"Now I'm kind of obsessed with organs, I think, in a strange way. In a healthy, TV way," chuckles Canning, adding she'd be interested in witnessing a real surgery one day.

Pains were taken to present treatments accurately — Canning says shooting involved "surgical rehearsals" and carefully choreographed movements to realistically mimic what a real surgeon would

reach for and do when presented with a patient.

But the scripts are not slaves to detail, adds Allen, whose mother and aunts were nurses and whose friend is an ICU nurse like Sandy.

"You have to be fluid in your storytelling to make it a good story," Casey, who was on the verge of moving into a new place in Los Angeles when he was lured north by *Remedy*, says he could easily relate to growing up in a competitive family.

The Oakville, Ont.-bred Nikita star says his dad was a urologist. As a result, Casey grew up familiar with a particular type of medical lingo.

"I heard the word catheter a lot, I'm not even joking," Casey says as Colantoni cracks up beside him. "I knew what a catheter was, I knew what a radical prostatectomy was..." he adds as his TV dad groans upon mention of the intimate procedure.

Colantoni says the nitty gritty of doctor duties doesn't really interest him, noting he didn't bother spending much time in hospitals to observe professionals at work. It's the show's writing and the characters that will sell the series, he says, and that's what he focused on.

"The things that motivate people — those things I was interested in."

Remedy debuts Monday on Global. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Nova-Scotia-born star of The Americans is charming her way through Hollywood

'She's so lovely.'
Holly Taylor gets high praise from co-star Keri Russell

As Keri Russell sits down to speak with a small gathering of international press on the set of *The Americans*, you don't have to be a spy — or even play one on TV — to know something is up. The reporters seem charmed out of their boots, downright perky.

Then she gets it: the press has just met her adorable, Canadian-born co-star, Holly Taylor. "Holly girl," says Russell. "She's so lovely."

Born in Nova Scotia, Taylor plays Russell and Matthew Rhys' teenage daughter Paige Jennings on the edgy FX spy drama. The series is set during the cooling off of the Cold War in the early '80s.

Russell remembered how

"smart and composed" Taylor was in her audition. "And she comes in and she's just so — there's her milky skin and those brown, brown eyes and she was just so funny and composed. She's wonderful."

Taylor, 16, seems so un-Hollywood in the best possible way. In the very last scene of season one she discovers the big secret: her parents are posing as Americans but are really Russian spies.

"It felt like, really, really exciting, but really, really scary, because that was the last thing that people were going to see," Taylor says.

"So it was like, I want to make sure that it's good so that way people are like, on the edge of their seat."

Taylor says her interest in performing began with dance. At 11, she landed the role of ballet girl Sharon Percy in the Broadway production of *Billy Elliot*.

After *Billy Elliot* she started

looking into acting more. That led to a trip to Los Angeles, where she did an audition tape for *The Americans*. It was then back to New York to "meet the producers and stuff" and from that one audition, she booked the show. "So that was really cool!" she says.

The series is set about 15 years before Taylor was born. There's a poster of Rick Springfield in Paige's bedroom; All Taylor knows is he once did a song called, *Jessie's Girl*. She sometimes gets him mixed up with "Bruce Springfield, Bruce Springsteen," she corrects, but not before making all the reporters feel odd.

What does she think of the early '80s? First thing Taylor thought of was "Madonna and, like, neon colours." Then the wardrobe people gave her all these dark colours to wear, and corduroy pants, and she was like, "This is not Madonna!"

Born in Middleton, N.S., Taylor and her family moved



Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys play Russian spies posing as married Americans. Holly Taylor, right, and Keidrich Sellati play their unsuspecting children. CRAIG BLANKENHORN/FX

to New Jersey when she was just two-and-a-half.

"I don't know if you can count that I grew up there," she says of Middleton, "but I just like saying I'm from

there. It makes me feel better about myself, 'cause like, people are always like, 'Oh, you're from Canada,' and then it starts a conversation, so it's cool." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Second Season

The Americans returns Feb. 26 on FX Canada.



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Wright is Claire-ly okay with being 'evil'

House of Cards
Season 2. Actress Robin says she has to love the ruthless nature of her character

Portraying the ruthless Claire Underwood on the dark political drama House of Cards is demanding but continually surprising, says Robin Wright.

The Golden Globe-winning actress says she relishes playing the hardened wife of equally cold-blooded politician Francis Underwood, played by Kevin Spacey.

Claire routinely cuts down foes with an icy resolve, and it's all in the name of the couple's unabashed quest for power in Washington, notes Wright.

"I love her. I have to love her," Wright says in a recent interview from New York.

"She's so evil, but I don't see her as evil. She's doing her due diligence and that's the way things work. That's

how you get jobs done and if there's a hindrance or a roadblock you've got to remove the roadblock. It's really simple."

Season 2 of the dark drama returned to Netflix over the weekend, resuming the action with no apparent gap in time from the moment we last saw the scheming couple.

Claire and Francis are just returning home from the run they started in the previous episode when they find their underhanded confidant Doug Stamper waiting with urgent news.

Meddling reporter Zoe Barnes is getting uncomfortably close to the truth about what happened to dead congressman Peter Russo, but Stamper assures Francis he has their smoking gun — call girl Rachel Posner — "under control." In turn, Francis says he'll "handle" Zoe.

Meanwhile, Claire is facing a potential wrongful termination suit from the pregnant, disgruntled Gillian Cole and doesn't hesitate in playing hardball.

Wright heaps praise on

So bad she's good

"She's so evil, but I don't see her as evil. She's doing her due diligence and that's the way things work."

Robin Wright, actress
On her House of Cards character, Claire Underwood

creator Beau Willimon for keeping the tension coiled tight in this new batch of episodes.

"It's a character piece, the show. It's like an instruction manual on how to write characters," she says.

"He is so investigatory with the questions. Why would Claire do this? How would she do it? How would it benefit her? What's lucrative about it? What's sensible? ...

"All those questions are posed for each character and that's the beauty of the collaboration, is that he's asked those questions already, that's what gives us what we play. And then we enrich it



Robin Wright as Claire Underwood, alongside Kevin Spacey as U.S. Congressman Frank Underwood, in a scene from the Netflix series House of Cards. NETFLIX

when we rehearse."

She says she's continually surprised by Claire and how she evolves in every episode.

"We don't show up every day going, 'Oh, I know this

character like the back of my hand.' Do we have a sense and (do) we wear the clothes of that person? Absolutely, that's second nature. But we're always getting sur-

prised once we delve into another layer of Beau's plotlines." All 13 episodes of Season 2 of House of Cards are available on Netflix.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Play this game and you'll see the movie, that's how much footage is included. Whenever there's fighting or brick-building, the game takes over like an extended scene. Both admirably speak to the way kids use LEGO to invent wild tales and oddball characters. Outlandish sequences involving giant robots, disco dances and psychedelic unicorn kitten rage add originality to a now-familiar system of coins and breakables. That you can mix cowboys with pirates, super heroes with astronauts, construction workers with firefighters adds a freedom that is especially fun for two players.

KRIS ABEL

3 songs for the weekend



SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

This week's recommendations are beyond being merely international



15 Minutes Older / Carsick Cars

The People's Republic of China's greatest alt-rock exports have a new album entitled 3 coming next month. They may be from Beijing, but they sound like they could be from New York.

Catch Me If You Can / BABYMETAL

To arrive at the solution, apply the following formula is applied: (Japanese schoolgirls x 3) + death metal - irony = BABYMETAL.



Always Forgetting You / Spiritualized

The already-spacey dreamy British psych rockers were invited to compose a song using data from the Voyager 1 and 2 space probes that's been converted into audio. Part of an upcoming Record Store Day compilation.

\$3 million US sought

Chris Brown accused of punching someone in the face again, but this time he gets sued

A man who says he was punched in the face by singer Chris Brown and his bodyguard during an altercation outside a Washington hotel is suing for \$3 million.

The civil lawsuit filed Tuesday in Superior Court in Washington seeks \$1.5 million from each man. The lawsuit filed by lawyers for Parker Isaac Adams says that Adams' nose was fractured and he had other injuries to his head and face as a result of being punched.

Adams said in a telephone interview Thursday that he is seeking to recover money for his medical bills which include visits to a plastic surgeon and a breathing specialist.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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David Gerson hoping to take Omar far

Oscar nomination. Canadian producer of Palestinian movie thinks the foreign language film release date could play a part come awards night

The Canadian producer of the Oscar-nominated love story *Omar* says he's hoping a well-timed release boosts the film's chances of snagging the coveted best foreign-language film prize.

Toronto-bred David Gerson says it's an especially competitive year for the category, heaping praise on rivals from Belgium, Italy, Cambodia and Denmark.

Omar is the official submission from Palestine, and happens to hit theatres this Friday in the United States, and in Toronto and Vancouver on Feb. 28, just before the Oscars on March 2. "All the other contenders in that category — which were all excellent films, by the way, and everybody should see all of them — they've already released in the U.S.," Gerson notes in a recent phone interview from his adopted home in Berlin.

"We are releasing the film this Friday in about 55 screens in the U.S. and there will be the reviews and usual articles and so on, so people will either see the movie or not and we hope they see it and we hope they enjoy it." The thriller is set in the occupied West Bank

where the young Omar routinely scales a towering separation wall to hang out with childhood friends Tarek and Amjad, as well as visit his secret girlfriend Nadia, who is Tarek's younger sister.

Things turn ugly when Omar is arrested for his involvement in a deadly attack on an Israeli soldier, and forced to become an informant for an intelligence officer bent on snagging bigger fish.

Once released back onto the streets, Omar is suspicious of anyone who may have caused his detainment and torture, while his friends grow wary of where Omar's allegiances truly lie. The political drama heads into the awards race already having won the jury prize in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes film festival last year.

But Gerson notes it faces stiff competition at the Oscars from lauded co-nominees including Belgium's bluegrass love story *The Broken Circle Breakdown*, Italy's stylish *The Great Beauty*, Denmark's unsettling drama *The Hunt* and Cambodia's claymation doc *The Missing Picture*. "This movie (*Omar*) comes from such a small place, to make it to the big show is really quite a day," says Gerson, who studied philosophy at the University of Toronto before taking up film at the University of California, Los Angeles.

He notes that Palestine is not a region known for having the resources for ambitious filmmaking. "I think it's a great example of what happens when people come together to make something work," he



Adam Bakri stars as Omar in *Omar*, which faces stiff competition for the Oscar for best foreign language film. CONTRIBUTED

says of the \$2-million venture. "We're all very proud of it."

Gerson says *Omar* is essentially a love story, albeit one that is politically charged.

"You can't order a bottle

of wine in that region without having to get into politics. Where you park your car is a political determination."

Gerson says he was drawn to the project by writer/director

Hany Abu-Assad, whose 2005 film *Paradise Now* earned an Academy Award nomination and won the Golden Globe Award in the same category.

"He's always said this is for him an 'amour fou' — about the madness of love and what it can do to change you and make you do things."

If the film wins, Abu-Assad would get the statue as director, while Gerson says he'll be content to revel in "the glory."

Abu-Assad expects to attend the bash with stars Adam Bakri, who plays Omar, and Leem Lubany, who plays Nadia. Gerson, meanwhile, says he'll be in Brazil working on another film titled *Super Pai* (*Super Dad*). He says other projects in the pipeline include the independently financed *The Mumbai King* in India, and the London-set journalism feature *The White on Red* for British filmmaker Rowan Athale, star-

Oscar chances

- **Gerson's opinion.** As for Omar's chances at Oscar glory, Gerson sees the film as an underdog. "The foreign Oscars is a very difficult game and we have no money," says Gerson. He notes this year will be the first in which the entire membership of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — some 6,000 strong — can vote on the winner, but it's a toss-up as to whether that helps Omar's chances. "Believe me, you can't get five people in Hollywood to agree on anything, so getting a voting body of that number — I don't think you're going to get one clear answer."

ring Gemma Arterton and Ben Kingsley.

In 2015, he hopes to collaborate with Toronto-based director Atom Egoyan on a movie set in Stalinist Russia. He promises "big themes, big times, big people, big moments."

"I think he's a great Canadian director and he hasn't gotten his day in the international marketplace," says Gerson. "He should be on the list of the great directors in the world, which I know he is, but I think a big commercial worldwide movie that demonstrates that to everybody is always good and I'm very excited about getting to work with him."

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It's farewell to Shady as 50 Cent goes independent

Amicable. Rapper, who made it big with *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*, is moving away from Interscope Records and on to Capitol Music Group

After battling with his major label for years, 50 Cent has decided to become an independent artist. The rapper announced Thursday that he's leaving his longtime record label, Universal Music Group's Interscope Records, and Eminem's imprint, Shady/Aftermath.

The Grammy winner and his G-Unit Records have signed a distribution agreement with Caroline, the independent label at Capitol Music Group.

Capitol is one of the many labels that are part of Universal Music Group.

50 Cent launched an ultra-successful, six-times platinum debut with *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* in 2003, when he burst on the music scene with Eminem as his mentor. His sophomore album, 2005's *The Massacre*, was almost as successful, but other albums didn't match his previous efforts and he expressed his unhappiness with his label.

50 Cent had been planning to release a fifth album on the label, but it was set with multiple release dates and singles, and eventually didn't see a release.

His last album was 2009's *Before I Self Destruct*, which also had several release dates.

"I have had great success to date with Shady/Aftermath/

From Marshall's mouth

"Both myself and Shady Records are grateful to have had the chance to play a part in 50's career."

Eminem, rapper
On 50 Cent's move to his record label

Interscope and I'd like to thank Eminem and Dr. Dre for giving me an incredible opportunity," 50 Cent said in a statement. "I've learned so much from them through the years. I am excited to enter this new era where I can carry out my creative vision."

50 Cent had a plethora of hits early in his career that dominated the pop, rap and R&B charts, from P.I.M.P. to *Candy Shop* to the anthemic *In da Club*, which introduced the young rapper aside Dr. Dre and Eminem.

"Both myself and Shady

Records are grateful to have had the chance to play a part in 50's career," Eminem said in a statement. "Shady simply would not be what it is without 50 Cent. I've developed a great friendship with 50 over the years, and that's not going to change. We know 50 will have success in his new situation, and we remain supporters of both him and G-Unit."

The rapper, born Curtis Jackson, has also been a success outside of music, from film roles to fashion to books. 50 Cent's new album, *Animal Ambition*, will be released June 3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



50 Cent has battled his record label for years. AP PHOTO/JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION.

Dominic Monaghan is no softy for nostalgia

Focusing on the now. Former *Lost* star says he won't be part of an upcoming reunion marking the show's 10th anniversary

Dominic Monaghan says he's not interested in looking back on his role as drug-addled rocker Charlie on the ABC smash hit *Lost*, which debuted in 2004.

Several of Monaghan's former *Lost* co-stars are expected to gather at the Paleyfest television festival next month in Hollywood, where one of the marquee events will be a 10th anniversary celebration.

Monaghan says he'll be in Stockholm working on a Swedish TV show at the time.

But he also says he's not a fan of attending reunions in general. He notes that he hasn't done many reunions for *The Lord of the Rings*, nor does he go to high school reunions.

He says he prefers to focus on the present, such as his current nature and travel series for OLN, *Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan*. A second season debuts March 25.

"It's very strange for me to look back on anything in my life," Monaghan said Thursday during a stop in Toronto to promote the OLN series.

"I'm reminded of things like *Lord of the Rings* or *X-Men* or *Lost* but I don't dwell on those things. It's really hard to explain. You have to be careful in the position that I'm in to not get too fixated on those things because you're al-

ready in a world where people have a fan-type element to the work that you do which is present."

"So if you're constantly aware of all the other fan-type elements that you've done in the past with certain films or certain TV shows they compound on top of each other and then your ego gets messed

Quoted

"It's very strange for me to look back on anything in my life."

Dominic Monaghan

around with and I don't want to do that."

Monaghan's diverse roles include the hobbit known as Merry in *The Lord of the*

Rings trilogy, a quantum physicist on the short-lived TV show *FlashForward*, and an electrical-powered mutant known as Bolt in *X-Men*

Origins: Wolverine.

Monaghan adds that he nonetheless loved working on *Lost* and is proud of the show.

"It was one of the best first seasons of a TV show of all time and one of the best pilot episodes ever, if not the best. But you know, I did it. I did it 100 per cent, it's done." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Actor Dominic Monaghan says he'll be in Stockholm working on a Swedish TV show during the *Lost* reunion in Hollywood next month. GETTY IMAGES

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Victoria Beckham ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Posh ready to Spice up middle-class fashion

Posh Spice is getting decidedly less posh, all in the name of brand expansion. Victoria Beckham is reportedly going to start making clothes for the common folk, according to Radar Online. "Victoria has decided to branch her label out of its very upmarket roots," a source says. "She'll finally be able to crack the mid-range department store market that has made millions for stars like Jessica Simpson." Yes, but will she be able to look at herself in the mirror? "It took Victoria a while because she can be so stuck up about every-

thing," the source explains. "But she's finally admitted to herself and her team that she'd like to conquer a store such as Macy's and not just be known for high-end clothing." In an interview with Metro last year, Beckham acknowledged that her role as a fashion designer is to "empower" women. "I'm proud of what I've achieved with my team and with how my business is growing," she told us. "I'm glad that I can make women feel empowered. Because that's ultimately why I do what I do."

Those good rumours about 'lovely' Lawrence are true

All the reports about Jennifer Lawrence being completely down-to-earth and relatable are apparently on the up and up. Clarista Hoult, sister to Lawrence's boyfriend Nicholas Hoult, tells Heat magazine that the Oscar-winner is "lovely" and "really easy to talk to" in real life. "She doesn't seem like a Hollywood type. She just (fits) in," Clarista tells the magazine. "We didn't talk about work.



Jennifer Lawrence

We talked about what was on the TV."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Empathetic Franco worried about the shape Shia is in

Well, this was inevitable. As Shia LaBeouf contends with responses to his "performance art" piece from last week, #IAMSORRY, fellow actor and high-brow aspirant James Franco has taken to the New York Times Op-Ed page to voice his opinion on the matter. "Though the wisdom of some of his actions may seem questionable, as an actor and artist I'm inclined to take

an empathetic view of his conduct," Franco writes. "This behaviour could be a sign of many things, from a nervous breakdown to mere youthful recklessness. For Mr. LaBeouf's sake I hope it is nothing serious." Franco recounts his own decision to join the daytime soap opera General Hospital, as a means "to undermine the tacit—or not so tacit—hierarchy of entertainment," before concluding: "I think Mr. LaBeouf's project, if it is a project, is a worthy one. I just hope that he is careful not to use up all the good will he has gained as an actor in order to show us that he is an artist."



Selena Gomez

'Heartbroken' Gomez puts a target on Miley's back

Selena Gomez is apparently out for blood after hearing about Miley Cyrus' rumoured hook-up with Justin Bieber—and she's bringing in backup. According to Life & Style, Gomez has enlisted the help of pals Taylor Swift and Demi Lovato to enact her revenge. "All four girls used to be friendly, but when Selena heard Miley started making moves on Justin, it went downhill," a source says. "Both Taylor and Demi know

how heartbroken Selena has been, and they hate what Miley did to her." Gomez's camp has reportedly started freezing Cyrus out of lucrative appearances and "trash-talking" her to anyone who will listen around Hollywood, while Cyrus herself is said to be taking steps to keep her distance. "She checks in with club owners and event planners to make sure those girls won't be around," a source says.

Twitter



@lenadunham

I like to play a game in macrobiotic restaurants. It's called "homeless socialist or Patti Smith?"



@billmahr

That preacher who died when the snake he was handling bit him? Combines the 2 things I hate most in life: religion and prop comedy



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Liquid Assets

Rhône rules



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With French wines on the comeback trail, one region in

particular has found a place in the hearts and mouths of wine lovers.

Though the Rhône valley is not as flashy as Bordeaux and Champagne or as mysterious as Burgundy, its wines combine Old World charm with New World drinkability.

The southern France valley is divided into two parts. In the north the wines get their fuller flavours thanks to the dominance of the syrah grape. The lighter wines in the south are ruled by grenache, a major influence on the region's most famous wine, Châteauneuf-

du-Pape.

Père Anselme's 2011 La Fiole Côtes-du-Rhône (\$14.99-\$18.99) is 85 per cent grenache. Its smooth blend of blackcurrant, licorice and bright berries comes wrapped in Anselme's famous crooked bottle.

A Côtes-du-Rhône is one of the few reds I think pairs well with a meaty bowl of chili. Try it with winter stews, sausage-based dishes and roast turkey dinners as well. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Peachy-keen on crumble

DONNA HAY
gustotv.com

1. Preheat oven to 200°C (400°F). Roll out pastry between 2 sheets of non-stick baking paper into a rough round about 5 mm thick.
2. Place the pastry on a baking tray lined with non-stick baking paper. Spread the pastry with the jam leaving a 5 cm border. Top the jam with the peaches. Fold over the pastry to form a rim.
3. To make the crumble topping, combine the butter, almonds, flour, sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle in clumps over the top of the peaches.
4. Bake for 25 minutes or until pastry and the crumble top are golden. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.

Ingredients

- 350 g store-bought or homemade sweet shortcrust pastry
 - 3 tablespoons apricot jam
 - 3 peaches, sliced
 - vanilla ice cream, to serve
- Crumble topping**
- 40 g butter, softened
 - 2 tablespoons slivered almonds, finely chopped
 - ¼ cup (35g) plain (all-purpose) flour
 - 2 tablespoons caster (super-fine) sugar
 - ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Looking for a savoury and a sweet to put on the table pronto? Bestselling Australian chef Donna Hay shows us how with recipes from her cookbook Fast, Fresh, Simple.

Stir-fried shrimp fill out an omelette nicely



FAST, FRESH, SIMPLE
Donna Hay
gustotv.com

Ingredients

- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons grated ginger
- 1 long red chilli, finely sliced
- 4 green onions (scallions), finely sliced
- 10 large green (raw) prawns (shrimp), peeled and cleaned
- 4 cups cooked jasmine rice
- soy and chilli sauces, to serve

1. Heat a non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add half the sesame oil and half the egg and swirl to coat the pan.

2. Cook for 1 minute or until the egg has set. Remove from pan, set aside and repeat with remaining egg and oil.

3. Heat the frying pan over high heat. Add the vegetable oil, ginger, chilli and onion and cook for 1 minute.

4. Add the prawns and cook for 3 minutes.

5. Add the rice and cook for 2-3 minutes or until warmed through.

6. Place the omelettes on serving plates and spoon over the rice mixture. Drizzle with soy and chilli sauces to serve.

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Australian chef Donna Hay is one of the great culinary masters airing on GustoTV. One of Canada's newest TV channels, Gusto features cooking and culinary travel shows each night, hosted by chefs and foodies from around the world, as well as here at home. For more details, check your local listings or visit gustotv.com.



This prawn-fried rice dish serves two. DONNA HAY

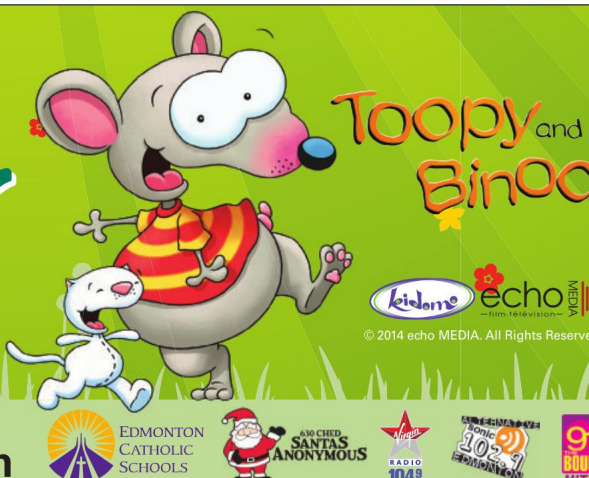
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Red, white and gold

Women's hockey.

Canada wins fourth straight Olympic title with comeback win over U.S. capped in OT

Once again, Marie-Philip Poulin's heroics put Canada on top of the women's hockey podium at the Winter Olympics.

Poulin's goal at 8:10 of overtime gave Canada a 3-2 win over the archrival Americans in the gold-medal final at the Sochi Winter Games on Thursday.

It was her second goal of the game after she tied the score with just 55 seconds left in regulation.

"I don't know what to say, it's so surreal and a dream come true again," she said.

It's a historic fourth straight gold medal for Canada. The only other women's team to win more consecutive Olympic gold is the U.S. in women's basketball with five in a row from 1996 to 2012.

Poulin was a heroine of Canada's gold in Vancouver four years ago. She scored twice in a 2-0 win over the Americans.

"It doesn't feel real yet but I'm an Olympic gold medalist," said Canadian defenceman Jocelyne Larocque.

The dramatic win came for a Canadian team that has faced adversity in recent months with their coach Dan Church resigning in December and Kevin Dineen taking over just weeks before the Sochi Games.

The Canadians took to Dineen right away and he kept them calm Thursday.

"He was so confident in us, going into overtime our coach just told us to be calm and play



Team Canada celebrates its overtime win in the women's gold-medal hockey game in front of Anne Schleper of the U.S. on Thursday in Sochi, Russia. Canada won 3-2. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

our game," said Poulin. "He totally believed in us."

The Canada-U.S. rivalry is a bitter one with the teams coming to blows in exhibition games played in the lead-up to Sochi. Canada had lost four straight coming into the Olympics but won when the teams squared off in the round-robin earlier in the Games.

"I'm proud of the fight that we put up for the whole game," said American captain Meghan

Duggan. "I'm proud to wear this jersey always, no matter if win or lose."

"It's not the result we wanted," she added, her voice breaking and tears starting to flow.

Trailing 1-0 after two periods and down two goals deep into the third, Canada scored twice in the final 3:26 of the regulation and suddenly the gold that had been slipping away was within reach again.

"It was a hard game," said

Canadian veteran Hayley Wickenheiser. "We came back, we never quit, and we believed in ourselves."

Canada's Brienne Jenner halved the deficit at 16:34 of the third with a shot that deflected off of U.S. defender Kacey Bellamy's knee and over goalie Jessie Vetter.

With Shannon Szabados pulled from Canada's net for an extra attacker, forward Kelli Stack's attempted empty-netter that would have sealed the gold for the Americans hit the post.

Meghan Duggan and Alex

Golden dynasty

With four straight gold medals in women's hockey, Hayley Wickenheiser, Jayna Hefford and Caroline Ouellette joined Soviet biathlete Alexander Tikhonov and German speedskater Claudia Pechstein as gold medalists in four consecutive Winter Games.

Carpenter were the goal scorers for the U.S.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mere inches cost U.S. gold medal

Wearing a stars and stripes bandana, Kelli Stack patiently answered reporters' questions and then walked away when her media duties were done.

She could not get two feet before the tears started.

With Canada down 2-1 and having pulled its goalie late in the Olympic women's hockey final Thursday, the U.S. forward had a long-range shot at the empty Canadian net.

It seemed destined to go in the gaping goal but instead rang off the right post with 1:26 remaining. Marie-Philip Poulin scored 31 seconds later

and Canada, thanks to another Poulin score, went on to win in overtime.

Both sides were left to wonder what might have been in a thrilling showdown between the two heavyweights of the women's game.

At the time, "I was thinking, 'Oh that would have been nice if that went in, an inch to the right,'" Stack said.

"We were still up a goal so I'm like, 'It's not that big of a deal.'"

Less than a minute later, the 26-year-old from Brooklyn Heights, Ohio, had a different

Divine intervention

"Thankfully, there's a god, it hit the post and we were able to keep the puck alive and still have a one-goal deficit."

Canadian captain Caroline Ouellette

thought.

"After they tied it up I thought to myself, 'I've done that once before in my career in college and it's the worst feeling in the world.'"

The shot attempt came about after an official got in Canadian defenceman Catherine Ward's way, allowing Stack to clear the puck from just inside the U.S. blue-line.

"I was a little bit frustrated with the referee," said Ward.

But when the puck hit the post, Ward told herself "it's meant to be. This is our chance, we have to keep going."

U.S. coach Katey Stone chalked the play up to bad luck. "When those things happen in the game of hockey you start to wonder if it is your night," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



The puck hits the post with Canada's goalie pulled late in regulation during the women's gold-medal game against the United States on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's the semifinal countdown

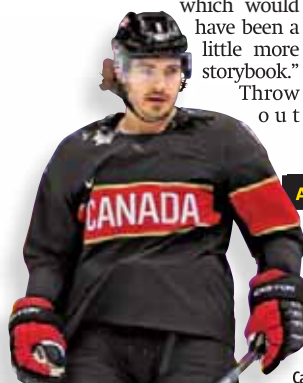
Deh-neh-neh-neh, deh-neh-neh-neh... Rematch the hockey world's been waiting for promises to settle a few scores

More than 19,000 kilometres separate Vancouver and Sochi, and four years have passed since Sidney Crosby scored his golden goal.

Team Canada and the United States meet again at the Olympics on Friday, but almost everything — from the size of the rink to the expectations and the stage — has changed since their last meeting at the 2010 Games.

Most importantly, it's not for the gold medal but rather a spot in the final.

"It seems like we were on a crash course to meet those guys," U.S. centre David Backes said. "And we get them in the semifinal instead of the final, which would have been a little more storybook." Throw out



Another gear?

"Against a North American team, I think this is where we really pick it up and show how we can score."

Canada defenceman Drew Doughty



Left: Canadian players Sidney Crosby, from left, Jonathan Toews and Jeff Carter share a laugh at practice on Thursday in Sochi. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS
Right: Phil Kessel has been stellar for the Americans, scoring five goals while playing with Zach Parise. PETR DAVID JOSEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



the storybook and throw out history. Based strictly on a tournament the Americans have rolled through, they look like the favourites against Canada for the first time at the Olympics since NHL players began participating.

Only Backes and his U.S. teammates are embracing the underdog role and trying to deflate high expectations, while Drew Doughty and Canada

want to pump themselves up.

"We don't see ourselves as the underdog," Doughty said. "I think both teams are really evenly matched. I don't know who I would give the upper hand to at this point. But I'm obviously more confident in my team than theirs."

Confidence was brimming from both sides a day before meeting with a chance to clinch a spot in the gold-medal game against Sweden or Finland.

It's easy to see where it's coming from for the Americans, who have outscored opponents 20-6 through four games. While Canadian coach Mike Babcock pointed out that it has been "easy" for the U.S. to score, mostly against Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, Backes doesn't see it that

way.

"I don't think it's come easy at all, we've had to work for everything we've gotten, second chances, rebounds, dirty goals," he said. "Everything we've gotten we've worked for and we plan to work for everything we're going to get in the future."

U.S. coach Dan Bylsma said there's no "secret" to what his team has done to lead the tournament in scoring. The win over Russia featured two power-play goals, and the rest of the production has been spread around, whether it be Phil Kessel's five goals in pretty fashion or Dustin Brown's two with some grease on them.

Still, Bylsma doesn't want his team to try to go chance-for-chance with the deep Can-

adians.

"They have more skill and they're a deeper team but we're a harder team to play against," Bylsma said. "We're going to match up and go toe-to-toe with them that way."

The feeling around the pre-tournament favourite Canadians is that even after scoring just 13 goals through four games, more are bound to come if quality opportunities keep

U.S. and them

"I think we have a chance to try to prove that we're in the same sentence with Canada."

U.S. forward Patrick Kane

piling up.

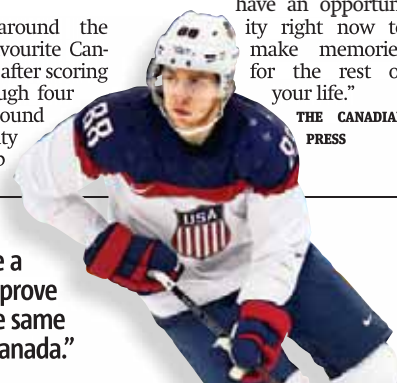
"I think we're going to get more opportunities than we've been getting," said Matt Duchene, who will replace the injured John Tavares in Canada's lineup. "I know it's only a matter of time before the dam bursts and we start scoring a lot of goals."

If Canada scores goals at the pace its players do during an NHL regular season, there's no way the U.S. can keep up. That's one thing the Canadians are hoping for by not playing a European team — that this will be a bit more of a North American-style game.

But, again, this is not Vancouver. The ice is still 15 feet wider at Bolshoy Ice Dome than it was at Rogers Arena four years ago, meaning it cannot possibly be the exact same brand of hockey that produced that legendary gold-medal game. "2010's all over with," Team Canada coach Mike Babcock said. "We're at a new opportunity both for them and for us. The teams are different. You

have an opportunity right now to make memories for the rest of your life."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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THE BEST A MAN CAN GET





Jennifer Jones and Kaitlyn Lawes rest their heads on each other as they stand on the podium with Jill Officer and Dawn McEwen (not seen) after defeating Sweden to win the gold medal in the Olympic curling final in Sochi Thursday.
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stone gold Jones the best in the world

Curling. Undefeated skip's gamble in the 9th vs. Swedes places her among best of all time

As Jennifer Jones crouched in the hack, cleaning the rock in advance of her last throw, she was already cracking a grin.

As the stone made its way down the ice, the smile got even broader. And when the rock reached the other end, the beaming Winnipeg skip was jumping for joy.

Olympic champion. Perfect record. Money in the bank.

Jones, third Kaitlyn Lawes, second Jill Officer and lead Dawn McEwen defeated Sweden's Margaretha Sigfridsson 6-3 on Thursday in a tense final decided by Canada's steal of two in the ninth. Only then were the Canadian women able to relax and bring out the smiles that have been their Olympic trademark

here.

"We're Olympic gold medalists," said a jubilant Jones, wearing the same gold eye shadow she favoured in Wednesday's semifinal. "It's something that you dream of for your entire life. It's what every athlete wants to do and we did it today."

"And we did it in a way where we played so consistent all week. On the biggest stage for sport, we came out and played our best. And I'm so, so proud of us."

The win at the Ice Cube Curling Center improved Canada's record at the Games to 11-0, matching Canadian skip Kevin Martin's feat of winning the 2010 Olympic crown without a loss.

Jones, 39, has now added Olympic gold to the world championship she won in 2008 as well as four Canadian titles.

It's Canada's second women's curling gold. The late Sandra Schmirler won the

Brits vs. Swiss

Britain's Eve Muirhead, the 2013 world champion, defeated Switzerland's Mirjam Ott 6-5 for the bronze medal earlier Thursday.

first in Nagano, Japan, in 1998.

The performance will trigger debate of where Jones belongs in the women's curling pantheon.

One of the greatest of all time?

"I would completely, 100 per cent agree.... Probably one of the best skips to ever play the game," said the 38-year-old Officer, who has been at Jones' curling side for 20 years.

"Best in the world," added the 25-year-old Lawes. "She's an amazing, amazing talent in our sport. And as a person, she's an amazing human being. I've never met anyone kinder."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEDALS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot.
United States of America	8	6	11	25
Russian Federation	7	9	7	23
Netherlands	6	7	9	22
Norway	10	4	7	21
Canada	7	9	4	20
Germany	8	4	4	16
France	4	4	7	15
Sweden	2	6	4	12
Switzerland	6	3	2	11
Austria	2	6	2	10
Czech Republic	2	4	2	8
Japan	1	4	3	8
Italy	0	2	6	8
Slovenia	2	1	4	7
Belarus	5	0	1	6
People's Republic of China	3	2	1	6
South Korea	2	2	1	5

WHAT CANADA DID

THURSDAY

CURLING

Women's Final - Canada defeated Sweden 6-3 to capture the **gold medal**, its first in women's curling since 1998. The Winnipeg rink, consisting of skip Jennifer Jones, third Kaitlyn Lawes, second Jill Officer and lead Dawn McEwen, became the first women's team to go through the Olympics undefeated.

FIGURE SKATING

Ladies Free Program - Kaetlyn Osmond (Sherwood Park, Alta.) received 112.80 points in her free program to finish 13th overall (168.98), while Gabrielle Daleman (Newmarket, Ont.) scored 95.83, 17th overall (148.44).

FREESTYLE SKIING

Men's Ski Cross - Brady Leman of Calgary fell in the final and ended up fourth, allowing the three other French finalists to sweep the podium positions. Chris Del Bosco of Montreal and Dave Duncan of London, Ont., were eliminated in the opening round and finished 17th and 26th overall respectively.

Ladies' Ski Halfpipe - Rosalind Groenewoud of Calgary finished 7th overall (74.20 points), while Keltie Hansen of Edmonton failed to qualify for the final and placed 13th overall.

ICE HOCKEY

Women's Final - Canada won its fourth straight Olympic **gold medal** in women's hockey, defeating the United States 3-2 in overtime.

Marie-Philip Poulin scored with 55 seconds left in the third period to send it into overtime, and also scored the golden goal on the power play at the 8:10 mark.

CURLING

All Times Eastern

MEN

Wednesday's results

SEMIFINALS

Canada 10 China 6

Britain 6 Sweden 5

Friday's games

BRONZE MEDAL

Sweden vs. China, 3:30 a.m.

GOLD MEDAL

Britain vs. Canada, 8:30 a.m.

WOMEN

Wednesday's results

SEMIFINALS

Canada 6 Britain 4

Sweden 7 Switzerland 5

Thursday's results

BRONZE MEDAL

Britain 6 Switzerland 5

GOLD MEDAL

Canada 6 Sweden 3

CANADA 6, SWEDEN 3

Canada 1 0 0 2 0 0 0 1 2-6

Sweden 0 1 0 0 2 0 0 0 0-3

CANADA

Team Shots: 77, Points: 253, Percentage: 82.

Jennifer Jones, Shots: 19, Points: 67, Percentage: 88.

Kaitlyn Lawes, Shots: 20, Points: 54, Percentage: 68.

Jill Officer, Shots: 20, Points: 61, Percentage: 76.

Dawn McEwen, Shots: 18, Points: 71, Percentage: 99.

SWEDEN

Team Shots: 77, Points: 266, Percentage: 86.

Maria Prytz, Shots: 18, Points: 61, Percentage: 85.

Christina Bertrup, Shots: 20, Points: 63, Percentage: 79.

Maria Wernnerstrom, Shots: 19, Points: 67, Percentage: 88.

Margaretha Sigfridsson, Shots: 20, Points: 75, Percentage: 94.

HOCKEY

All Times Eastern

MEN

Wednesday's results

QUARTERFINALS

Canada 2 Latvia 1

Sweden 5 Slovenia 0

Finland 3 Russia 1

United States 5 Czech Republic 2

Friday's games

SEMIFINALS

Sweden at Finland, 7 a.m.

Canada at United States, 12 p.m.

Saturday's game

BRONZE MEDAL GAME

Semifinal losers, 10 a.m.

Sunday's game

GOLD MEDAL GAME

Semifinal winners, 7 a.m.

WOMEN

Thursday's results

BRONZE MEDAL GAME

Switzerland 4 Sweden 3

GOLD MEDAL GAME

Canada 3 United States 2 (OT)

CANADA 3, U.S. 2 (OT)

First Period - No Scoring.

Penalties - Watchorn Cda (Body Checking Minor) 2:01, Mikkelsen Cda (roughing) 6:13, Knight U.S. (cross-checking) 8:01, Watchorn Cda (tripping) 14:04, Bellamy U.S. (holding) 15:30.

Second Period

1. United States, Duggan 1 (Lamoureux) 11:57.

Penalties - Stack U.S. (hooking) 7:10, Schleper U.S. (cross-checking) 14:14.

Third Period

2. United States, Carpenter 1 (Knight, Stack) 2:01 (pp).

3. Canada, Jenner 1 (Mikkelsen, Larocque) 16:34.

4. Canada, Poulin 1 (Johnston, Irwin) 19:05.

Penalties - Watchorn Cda (tripping) 0:07.

Over time

5. Canada, Poulin 2 (Fortino) 8:10 (pp).

Penalties - Ward Cda (cross-checking) 6:09, Lamoureux U.S. (slashing) 6:15, Knight U.S. (cross-checking) 7:31.

Shots

Canada 9 8 10 4-31

United States 11 5 8 5-29

Goal - Canada: Szabados (W); United States: Vetter (L). **Power plays (goal-chances)** - Canada: 1-7; United States: 1-5.

Referees - Joy Tottman, Linesmen - Ilona Novotna, Zuzana Svobodova.

Attendance - 10,639 at Sochi, Russia.



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cwb.com

CFL

Eskimos let go of defensive back Alexander

The Edmonton Eskimos have released Canadian defensive back Donovan Alexander.

In three seasons playing safety with Edmonton, he recorded 121 defensive tackles, five special-teams tackles

and seven interceptions. He was a divisional all-star in 2012.

Drafted by Montreal in the third round in 2007, he played two seasons with the Saskatchewan Roughriders before signing with the Eskimos as a free agent in 2011.

The 28-year-old Winnipeg native played college football in North Dakota.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA. Pacers make some noise during relatively silent trade deadline

The Indiana Pacers pulled off one more bold move before Thursday's trading deadline.

Less than three weeks after signing Andrew Bynum, Indiana sent Danny Granger and a 2015 second-round draft pick to Philadelphia in exchange for former first-round pick Evan Turner and forward Lavoy Allen.

The teams confirmed the deal late Thursday after the NBA's league office approved it. The draft pick originally belonged to Golden State.

Yahoo! Sports first reported the trade.

Indiana now adds two young forwards — players who could help them as they attempt to dethrone two-time defending NBA champion Miami and finally win their first NBA title. But they had to give up Granger, a fan favourite who was once considered the face of the franchise.

"We thank Danny for his eight and a half seasons with us and we appreciate everything he did for us in his time here," president of basketball operations Larry Bird said in a statement. "We felt we needed to make this trade to strengthen the core unit and our bench. In Evan and Lavoy, we

think we got two really good players that can help us and we look forward to what they can bring." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Around the league

- Andre Miller finally got out of Denver and landed as John Wall's backup in Washington.
- The 76ers dealt Spencer Hawes to Cleveland.
- The Heat freed up room to sign a player when they dealt Roger Mason to Sacramento.
- The Brooklyn Nets did the same when they traded Reggie Evans and Jason Terry to the Kings on Wednesday for Marcus Thornton, and Jason Collins is one of the players being considered.
- Milwaukee's Gary Neal landed in Charlotte.
- Despite trade rumours, Kevin Love, Pau Gasol and Rajon Rondo remained with their teams.

King James spoils Westbrook's return

NBA. Miami avenges loss to rivals, handing OKC their first home defeat since Jan. 5

On Thursday

103

Heat

81

Thunder

LeBron James scored 33 points before leaving in the fourth quarter with a bloody nose and the Miami Heat beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 103-81 on Thursday night.

James went down with 5:50 remaining after he was struck by Oklahoma City's Serge Ibaka on a drive to the basket. James finished the dunk, but was bloodied and left the court with a towel over his face.

Dwyane Wade had 24 points and 10 assists and Chris Bosh added 24 points for Miami, which won its fourth straight and avenged an earlier loss to Oklahoma City.

Kevin Durant scored 28 points for Oklahoma City. Russell Westbrook, who had missed the previous 27 games after having a surgery on his right knee, started and scored 16 points.

Oklahoma City lost at home for the first time since Jan. 5.

The Thunder overcame an early 18-point deficit on Jan. 29 to roll past the Heat 112-95 in Miami, and the home fans hoped for a regular-season sweep against the team that beat Oklahoma City in the 2012 NBA Finals.

The crowd erupted as Westbrook was introduced as a starter. His first minute of action was furious and had the crowd on its feet. His first basket was a two-handed, fast-

break dunk 37 seconds into the game, and he got a steal 17 seconds later.

The excitement quickly evaporated. James scored 10 points in the first 3:11 on 5-for-5 shooting and Miami made 13 of its first 14 shots to take a 28-13 lead. James scored 16 points to help the Heat lead 34-17 at the end of the first quarter.

The Heat extended their lead to 19 points in the second quarter before the Thunder rallied behind Westbrook. He scored nine points in the final 1:55 of the first half, including a dunk in the closing seconds, to trim Miami's lead to 54-47 at the break.

Miami took control early in the third quarter. James scored six points during a 10-0 run that helped the Heat take a 64-49 lead. The Heat extended their lead to 75-53 on a 3-pointer by James with just over five minutes left in the third quarter.

Durant scored seven points in the final 2:46 of the quarter to trim Miami's edge to 76-65 heading into the fourth.

But Miami reasserted itself in the opening minutes. Bosh hit a 3-pointer to bump the Heat's lead back up to 19 with just under 10 minutes to go.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Thunder guard Russell Westbrook shoots in front of Heat centre Chris Bosh during the third quarter in Oklahoma City Thursday. Miami won 103-81.

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Even if you are the kind of Aries who loves surprises what happens today won't necessarily meet with your approval, especially if the joke is on you.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Patience and a sense of humour are a must today. Something is about to happen that not only takes you by surprise but makes your plans redundant, much to your annoyance.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Disruptions are likely across the board today but chances are you won't be as inconvenienced as some people. The good news is that upheavals tend to create new opportunities, so keep your eyes open.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Whatever activities you had lined up for the next 24 hours you may have to think again because unforeseen events will change everything. You may also have to let go of an idea you were attached to.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You will discover something new about a friend or colleague today and although it may shock you a bit you will also be impressed, not least because they managed to keep it a secret so long.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Something dramatic will happen today and you won't be that impressed. However, if you keep your wits about you this is one surprise that can be turned in your favour.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You may be bumpier than usual today but that's okay because you are not the sort to panic. You do like to spend money to make yourself feel better and that may be a mistake.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You need to confront a fear that has been holding you back and you need to do it now. A little bit of courage will take you a long way.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Either you will change your mind and annoy other people, or they will change their minds and annoy you. Either way tempers are going to be a bit on the short side over the next 24 hours.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Don't waste your time or your energy on someone who seems determined to get under your skin. Don't let this feud go on or could develop into something quite dangerous. Just walk away.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Just because you see things in a clear and logical way does not mean other people see with the same kind of eyes or understanding. You will encounter someone today who is rather dull-witted.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

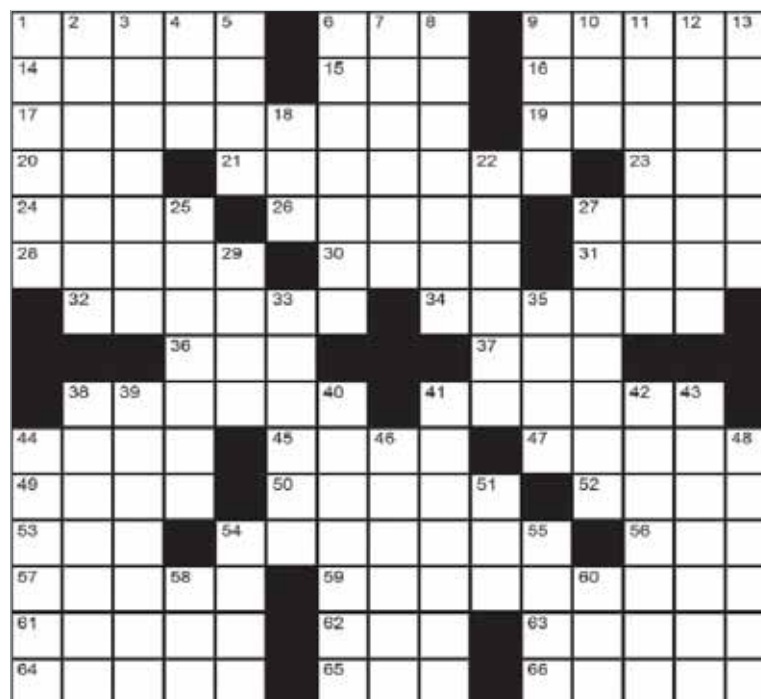
Most things are going your way right now but Saturn, planet of restriction, is still holding you back from following your dream. Take it as a sign that you're not ready to make that dream a reality.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Pandemonium
6. Toronto's Union, e.g.
9. SOCHI 2014 - Opening/Closing Ceremonies venue, ___ Olympic Stadium
14. Canadian author of the Jalna novel series, Mazo de la ___ (b.1879 - d.1961)
15. Record label
16. "...the bombs bursting ___...": 2 wds.
17. Montreal borough
19. Joni Mitchell's "___ of You"
20. US tax ID
21. SOCHI 2014 - Speed Skating race, Team ___
23. Days opp.
24. "So ___."
26. Soothsayers
27. Rivers: Spanish
28. Lettered gyms
30. Prefix with 'logical'
31. Large lot
32. Pattern
34. Like partially melted snow
36. Writer Mr. Capote, to pals
37. US politics org.
38. Knowing
41. SOCHI 2014 - Podium hauls
44. Shock



45. Karmann ___ (Volkswagen of yore)
47. Margarines
49. Ms. Helgenberger
50. French artist Mr. Matisse
52. Led Zeppelin IV, aka what?
53. www address

54. French island where Napoleon was born
56. ___ favor (Please, in Spanish)
57. Ambition
59. SOCHI 2014 - Cross-Country race: 2 wds.
61. Soap star Ms. Francis

62. Offs opposites
63. Ms. Clark of country
64. Outer limits
65. Expanse
66. Change hair hue again

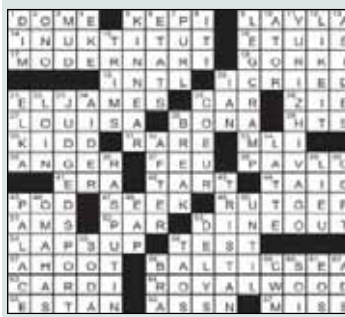
- Ice Hockey captain, Sidney ___
2. Hugh Laurie series, "___."
3. Behave politely: 2 wds.
4. "___, '___' is then?" ...asked the person who initially thought 'S' was the 18th letter

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

5. Permeate
6. Administered an oath: 2 wds.
7. Strained
8. Qualities
9. Italian car
10. "Monsters, ___" (2001)
11. District of ___ (Vancouver Island municipality)
12. Past
13. Braid: French
18. 12th Greek letters
22. Opera, Tristan und ___
25. Savouring
27. Hip-Hop group from Vancouver
29. King
33. Enthusiastic: 2 wds.
35. Reverse
38. Headlined
39. SOCHI 2014 - Winter Olympics sport
40. Lunchbox flask
41. Yahoo! CEO Ms. Mayer
42. SOCHI 2014 - One of the Mascots
43. "My apologies.": 2 wds.
44. Blur
46. So senseless
48. Military foray
51. 'Magnet' suffix
54. Third letters
55. Stars sci.
58. Try
60. Casual top

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	6	4	8	3	9	7	5
7	5	8	6	1	9	3	2	4
4	3	9	5	7	2	1	8	6
9	6	4	3	5	7	2	1	8
8	2	3	1	9	4	5	6	7
5	7	1	8	2	6	4	9	3
1	4	7	9	3	8	6	5	2
3	8	5	2	6	1	7	4	9
6	9	2	7	4	5	8	3	1

8								6
	5	4				7	9	
				6	8	5		
			9	5	4	8	6	
2	8							7
			6	1	7	2	9	
				9	1	3		
	6	5					3	4
3								1

Weather

TODAY



MAX: -11°
MIN: -11°

SATURDAY



MAX: -16°
MIN: -17°

SUNDAY



MAX: -19°
MIN: -29°



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